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ABSTRACT

This KIDS COUNT data book examines trends in the well-being of Minnesota's children. The statistical portrait is based on 12 indicators of child well-being: (1) children in poverty; (2) children in families receiving food stamps; (3) children receiving free or reduced-price school lunch; (4) children born to teenage mothers; (5) children born at low birth weight; (6) children with school readiness problems; (7) children transferring schools; (8) children dropping out of school; (9) children arrested for serious crime; (10) children abused and neglected; (11) children in out-of-home placements; and (12) children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries. Following an introduction, the data book provides regional and statewide statistical summaries for each indicator, discusses the importance of the indicator, describes potential improvement strategies, provides information on resources related to the indicators, and describes Minnesota trends. Two stories are interspersed in this section to illustrate the results of Kids Count initiatives. The second section, and bulk of the report, provides data by county, including demographics, areas of positive improvement and concern, and trends to watch. Data are compared for 1991, 1995, and 1999, and data for individual counties are compared to the overall statewide data. (SD)

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2001 Data Book

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Minnesota Kids: A Closer Look
2001 Data Book

produced by
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Minnesota KIDS COUNT is a joint project of the
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and
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at the **Joint Religious Legislative Coalition**.

Minnesota KIDS COUNT releases periodic reports and an annual data book to provide a statistical profile of Minnesota's children and suggestions for action on their behalf. This data book was made possible through funds provided by the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

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On the Web at
http://www.cdf-mn.org

Minnesota KIDS COUNT Staff

Jim Koppel, Director, Children's Defense Fund-MN

Diane Benjamin, KIDS COUNT Director, Children's Defense Fund-MN

Brian Rusche, Joint Religious Legislative Coalition

Jim Casebolt, Joint Religious Legislative Coalition

Juli Meyer, Intern, Children's Defense Fund-MN

Databook 2001 Designed and Produced By:

Linda Coffin, PageCrafters

KIDS COUNT Advisory Committee, 2001

Sherry Boyce, St. Louis County Extension, Duluth

Trudy Dunham, Center for 4-H Youth Development, Minnesota Extension Service

Ann Hill, Ombudsperson for African American Families, State of Minnesota

Judith Kahn, Konopke Institute, University of Minnesota

Emari Lavine, Minnesota Organization on Adolescent Pregnancy, Prevention and Parenting

Patricia Ray, Children of Color Initiative, MN Department of Human Services

Deb Swenson-Klatt, Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning

Kristin Teipel, Adolescent Health Coordinator, Minnesota Department of Health

Data Provided By:

George Hoffman, Minnesota Department of Human Services

Beth Haney, Minnesota Department of Human Services

Nancy Miller, Minnesota Department of Human Services

Judy Palermo, Minnesota Center for Health Statistics, Department of Health

DebbyKay Peterson, Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning

and departmental web sites given in the Data Notes on pages 123-125.

Find out about KIDS COUNT projects throughout the United States at http://www.kidscountnetwork.org

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INTRODUCTION

Since 1994, the KIDS COUNT Project at the Children's Defense Fund-Minnesota has been issuing annual reports documenting the well-being of children in Minnesota. Children who were born in 1994 are now seven years old. During that critical time in their development, the foundation has been laid for their future.

There are many ways to look at the eleven indicators used by KIDS COUNT to assess the well-being of Minnesota children. One is to look at these indicators in light of the needs of our youngest children and their families.

During the past year, Children's Defense Fund-Minnesota has been part of an exciting initiative, the Early Care and Education Finance Commission. The commission has this goal: "To ensure that Minnesota's children receive early care and education that provides a safe, nurturing, educational and culturally affirming environment in order to ensure that children enter kindergarten ready to succeed."

So what do the KIDS COUNT indicators tell us about our progress toward this goal?

Findings from the 2001 KIDS COUNT Data Book

Family Economics

Almost one in eight Minnesota children (167,800 children) **lived below the poverty line in 1997**, a 6% decrease from 1989.

About one in eleven Minnesota children (119,600 children) **received food stamps in 1999**, a 26% decrease since 1993.

Almost one in four Minnesota children (219,900 children) **received free/reduced price school lunch in 1999-2000**, about the same percentage throughout the decade.

For the thousands of children that live in these poor and low-income families, it is critical that our early care and education systems do not fail them. It is important that they have access to extra help with school readiness; that they and their families have health insurance, assistance with childcare expenses, and a tax system that helps them to be economically successful.

Starting Out

1,118 children were born to mothers younger than 18 in 1999; seventeen out of every 1000 women between ages 15 and 17 gave birth to a child, a 23% decrease from 1993-95.

About one out of every sixteen babies (4,016 children) **in 1999 weighed less than 5.5 pounds at birth**, a 22% increase since 1991.

Among the 58, 205 young children screened for school readiness in 1999-2000, just over 3% of their screening tests for health and developmental

Introduction, continued on p. 2

problems resulted in referrals for additional assistance.

There was about one transfer for every seven children enrolled in Minnesota schools in 1999-2000, a 5% increase since 1992-93.

Getting off to a good start at birth, being ready to enter kindergarten, and having a stable and successful educational experience are critical for children's success. There are thousands of Minnesota children who do not get off to the best start possible because of low birth weight, whose young mothers need extra support, who have problems as preschoolers, and who are at danger of school failure due to frequent moves.

Challenges to Success

About 21% of the class of 1999 did not graduate on time, a 13.5% decrease from 1997.

There were 15,737 arrests of children for serious crimes in 1999; this rate of 27 out of every 1,000 children ages 10-17 was a 27% decrease from 1991.

Almost nine out of every 1000 children had a substantiated report of child abuse or neglect in 1999, (11,113 children), a 3% increase from 1991.

About 15 out of every 1,000 children were in out-of-home placements in 1999 (18,815 children), a 7% increase from 1991.

Just over one out of every 10,000 children in Minnesota died from homicide, suicide or injuries in 1999 (139 children), a 21% decrease from 1991.

The data in this section dramatizes the effect of our failure to act — children who fall off the road to success by not completing their education; children who get into trouble with the law; children who are harmed by their parents or other caregivers, and children who die preventable deaths, primarily from motor vehicle accidents and injuries. When we begin to make substantial early investments in children and families, we will be able to reduce and eliminate these problems.

The Early Care and Education Commission offered the following proposals to reach their goal:

Give More Power and Resources to Parents to Raise Their Children through investment in birthing classes and parent education through public and private programs, tax credits for parents of young children, and voluntary parental leave programs.

Increase the Quality of Early Care and Education through child care staff training initiatives, expansion of the Basic Sliding Fee Child Care Program, and other improvements to child care environments.

Re-tool and Integrate Early Care and Education to Enable Minnesota's Children to be Kindergarten-Ready through integrating early

Children's Defense Fund of MN, 200 University Ave. W., Suite 210, St. Paul, MN 55103; 651/227-6121; www.cdf-mn.org

childhood, before and after school care programming at the local level, increasing funding for Head start, and creating individual learning and development plans for each child.

As the report notes,

"More than 170 new babies will be born in Minnesota today. Of the 300,000 children five or under who are now with us, none can vote, many can not even walk or talk yet. It will be years before they become productive members of our society and economy. Yet, children are our most important treasures. How well we serve them not only directly bears on their lives and their prospects, it reflects on what we truly value as a people."

How to Read the Tables

① **Number of Children.** It helps to know the actual number of children affected by a problem, as well as the percentage. Small numbers in a category may fluctuate significantly from year to year, making interpretation more difficult.

② **Percent or Rate of Children** (compared to total population, total births, total school enrollment, etc.). Unless the number of children is very small, percentages and rates provide useful comparisons across time, even if the comparison group increases or decreases in size.

③ **State Average.** This number compares a county to the state as a whole.

④ **Bar Charts.** These charts allow comparisons of different indicators within a county. At a glance, a county can be compared to the "average county." (For more detail about the bar charts, please see the data notes at the end of the book.)

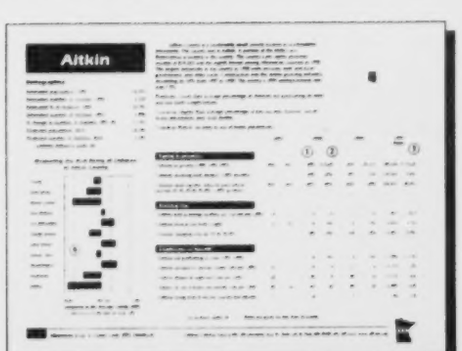
⑤ **Map.** The map ranks regions in thirds, allowing for regional comparisons. It can also help determine if a problem is concentrated in certain areas of the state.

⑥ **Percent Change.** This figure reveals trends over time (1991-1998). Small numbers in some regions can create relatively large percentage changes, however.

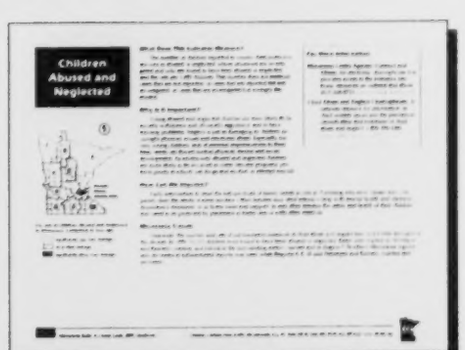
⑦ **Line Graph.** This shows the statewide trend for an indicator for each year of available data.

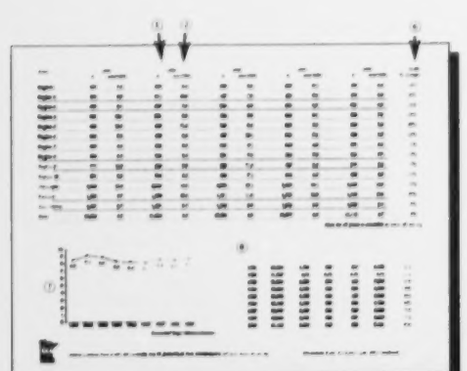
⑧ **Statewide Statistics by Race.** This provides a breakdown of the data by race and ethnicity when available.

Sample County Page



Sample Indicator Pages





Family Economics

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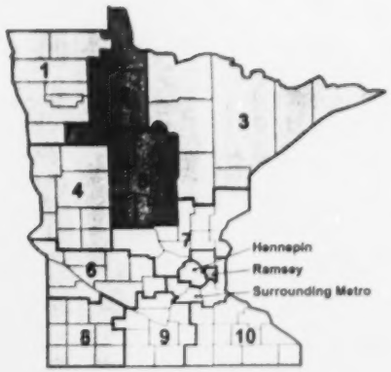
Children Living in Poverty



Percent of Children Living in Poverty in Minnesota, Compared to Average

- Significantly Less Than Average
- At or Near Average
- Significantly More Than Average

What Does This Indicator Measure?

The number of children in Minnesota who live in families with incomes below the federally-defined definition of poverty, as compared to all children. These numbers are estimates by the U.S. Census Bureau, and changes in the economy since 1996 are not reflected in these figures.

Why Is It Important?

Poverty matters to poor children and their parents, and it matters to society. Poor children are at increased risk of health problems including low birth weight, stunted growth, and anemia; educational problems including lower test scores and learning disabilities; and increased likelihood of dropping out of school, becoming single parents, and being poor themselves as adults.

Growing up poor matters because of a combination of factors that affect every area of a child's life. For example, low-income families may have more stress and conflict due to feeling more economic pressure. There may be more limited learning opportunities at home because of lack of books or computers, and less likelihood of attending camp, participating in music lessons or athletics. Children in poor families are more likely to experience lower quality childcare, poor nutrition, and bad housing (which can cause serious health problems such as asthma, which in turn can result in a child missing school.) Finally, low-income families may be more isolated from community resources and support, lacking regular phone service and reliable transportation.

For More Information

Children's Defense Fund. Poverty Matters: The Cost of Child Poverty in America. 1998. (202)628-8787. www.childrensdefense.org

National Center for Children in Poverty. Identifying and promoting strategies to reduce the young child poverty rate and to improve the life chances of young children still living in poverty. (212) 304-7100. www.nccp.org

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a nonpartisan research organization and policy institute. (202) 408-1080. www.cbpp.org

How Can We Improve?

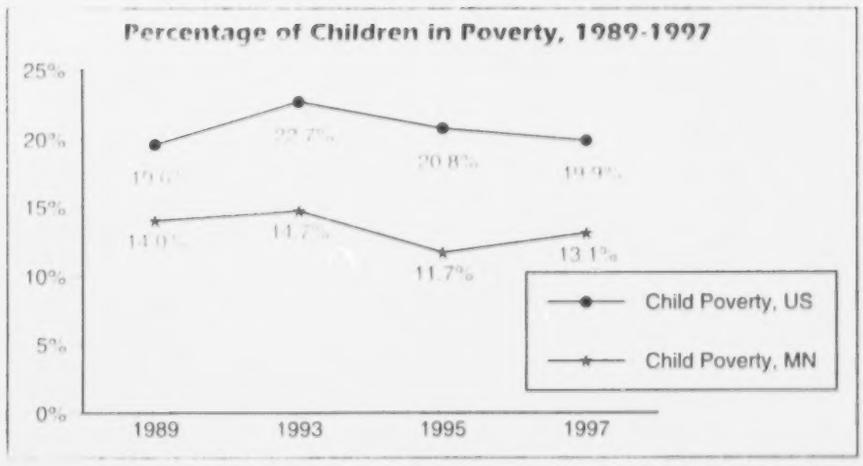
According to the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities, the two factors that have contributed the most to the decrease in child poverty since 1993 are increases in employment and wages, and an expansion of the federal Earned Income Tax Credit (a tax credit for low-income working families.) In order to improve employment and increase wages, however, low-income parents need education and training for well-paying jobs, adequate and affordable childcare and health care, and stable housing. Otherwise, working intermittently at low-wage jobs without benefits will not pull families out of poverty.

Minnesota Trends

The percentage of children in poverty has declined since 1989 for most regions and for the state as a whole. Still, 167,853 children — almost one in eight Minnesota children — lived below the poverty line in 1997. The percentage of children in poverty varied greatly between regions, from 6% in the surrounding metro counties, to 25% in Region 2 in north central Minnesota. However, the regions with the highest poverty rates also saw the greatest decrease from 1989, while two regions with the lowest rates, Region 10 and the surrounding metro, saw an increase over time.

Area	1989		1993		1995		1997		90-97
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	% change
Region 1	5,205	20%	4,483	17%	3,773	15%	4,231	17%	-14%
Region 2	6,147	31%	5,688	27%	4,716	22%	5,427	25%	-20%
Region 3	15,410	19%	15,806	19%	12,659	16%	13,374	17%	-12%
Region 4	10,698	20%	10,064	18%	8,256	15%	9,156	17%	-16%
Region 5	9,802	25%	8,694	21%	7,304	18%	8,374	20%	-21%
Region 6	7,293	16%	7,112	15%	5,686	13%	6,148	14%	-15%
Region 7	13,621	12%	14,758	12%	12,036	10%	14,456	11%	-12%
Region 8	5,374	16%	4,900	14%	3,988	12%	4,515	14%	-10%
Region 9	7,392	13%	7,748	13%	6,254	11%	7,011	12%	-3%
Region 10	12,060	10%	13,469	11%	11,312	10%	13,743	12%	11%
Hennepin	36,924	15%	46,466	19%	35,618	14%	38,669	16%	2%
Ramsey	21,392	18%	26,055	21%	20,838	17%	23,613	19%	11%
Surr. Metro	14,214	6%	19,981	7%	15,994	6%	19,137	6%	8%
State	165,531	14%	185,224	15%	148,434	12%	167,853	13%	-6%

Data for all years is available at *www.cdf-mn.org*.



Source: US Census Bureau

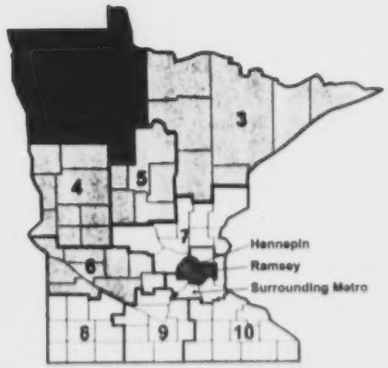
US Department of Health and Human Services Poverty Guidelines, 2001

Size of Family Unit	48 Contiguous States and D.C.
1	$ 8,590
2	11,610
3	14,630
4	17,650
5	20,670
6	23,690

For each additional person, add $3,020

SOURCE: *Federal Register*, Vol. 66, No. 33, February 16, 2001, pp. 10695-10697

Children Receiving Food Stamps



Percent of Children Receiving Food Stamps in Minnesota, Compared to Average

- Significantly Less Than Average
- At or Near Average
- Significantly More Than Average

What Does This Indicator Measure?

The number of children receiving food stamps in July of each year as a percentage of the total number of children. Family income must be less than 135% of the poverty line, along with certain other asset limitations.

Why Is It Important?

Food stamps prevent hunger and malnutrition by providing assistance with food expenses to low-income families. Food stamps are often used by working families to supplement their low wages. In spite of the food stamp program, hunger and food insecurity persist. National statistics from the U.S. Department of Agriculture show that in 1997, 4.2% of children lived in households experiencing food insecurity with hunger, and 11% of children lived in households that were food insecure but did not report actual hunger. For children below the poverty line, this figure increased to 27%. According to MN Food Share, in 1998 one in 18 Minnesotans used food shelves, and about half of those served were children. One third of food shelf users obtained most of their income through paid employment. ("Food insecure" households without hunger reported difficulty obtaining enough food, reduced quality of diets, anxiety about their food supply, and increased use of emergency food sources.)

For More Information

The Food Research and Action Center. Working to improve public policies to eradicate hunger and under-nutrition in the United States. (202) 986-2200. www.frac.org

MN Food Share. This organization offers a variety of reports and information about food stamps. (612) 721-8687, x327. www.gmcc.org/MFS

How Can We Improve?

Food Stamps is a federal program whose participation is limited only by income eligibility. However, many families who are eligible for food stamps do not receive them. A recent study of food stamp participation rates conducted by the Mathematica Policy Research group for the USDA suggests that approximately 56% of eligible Minnesotans actually receive food stamps, and that this rate has fallen since 1995. This suggests that at least some of the drop in the number of Minnesota children receiving food stamps is due to eligible families no longer receiving the program, rather than families increasing their income.

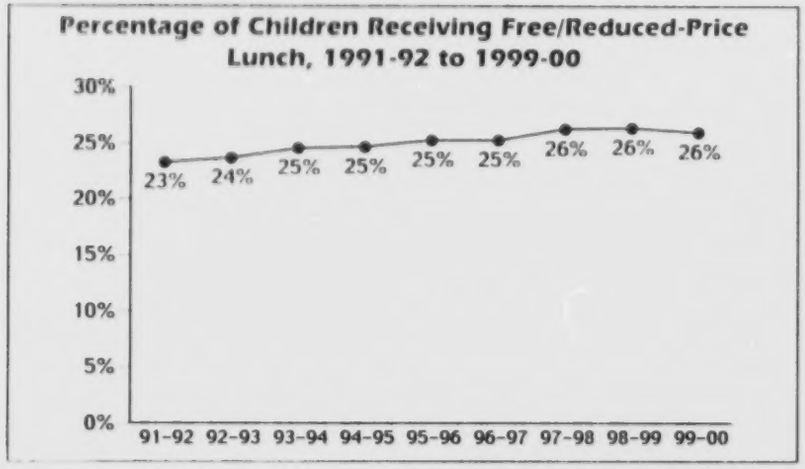
Outreach programs to low-income families through schools and work sites, as well as outreach to eligible legal immigrants, could improve access to the food stamp program and help ensure that all children receive adequate nutrition.

Minnesota Trends

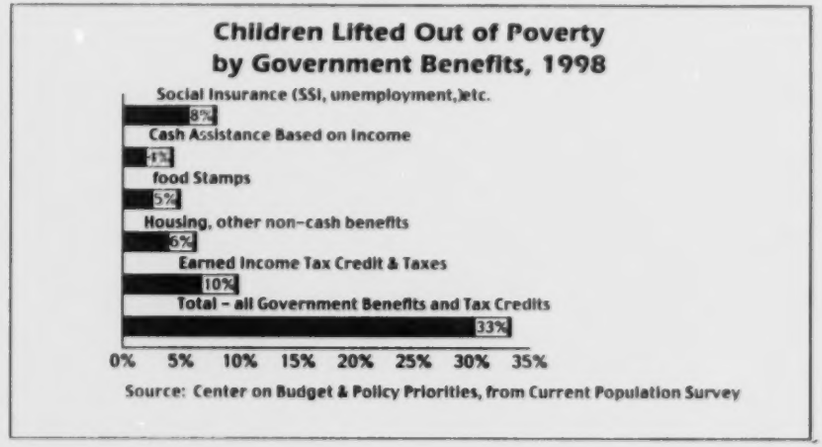
About one in eleven Minnesota children received food stamps in 1999. Minnesota has seen a steady decrease in the number of children receiving food stamps since 1995. Almost all regions have experienced decreases of various sizes. The percentage of children receiving food stamps is highest in Regions 1 and 2 as well as Hennepin and Ramsey counties. The suburban metro area had the lowest rate of food stamp use, and also saw a 49% decline between 1993 and 1999.

Area	1991-92		1993-94		1995-96		1997-98		1999-2000		91-92 to 99-00
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	% change
Region 1	6,389	34.0%	6,637	34.9%	6,539	34.5%	6,150	33.9%	5,962	35.0%	3.0%
Region 2	6,090	42.5%	7,048	46.7%	7,043	45.6%	7,602	49.4%	7,482	50.4%	18.4%
Region 3	14,456	25.3%	15,311	27.1%	15,137	27.1%	15,956	29.0%	15,758	29.9%	18.2%
Region 4	11,072	30.6%	11,747	31.7%	11,547	30.8%	11,307	30.4%	10,559	29.5%	-3.7%
Region 5	11,088	40.2%	11,746	40.5%	11,874	40.9%	12,157	41.4%	11,827	40.9%	1.8%
Region 6	8,757	26.9%	9,293	28.2%	8,906	27.2%	9,265	28.5%	8,721	27.9%	3.6%
Region 7	16,725	21.5%	18,393	22.6%	18,767	22.5%	19,421	22.5%	18,618	21.1%	-2.1%
Region 8	6,364	28.0%	7,075	30.9%	7,066	30.4%	7,268	31.9%	6,833	31.3%	11.8%
Region 9	8,875	24.5%	9,802	25.8%	10,356	26.6%	9,694	25.3%	9,809	26.7%	9.2%
Region 10	15,166	20.2%	15,699	20.5%	16,366	21.3%	16,978	21.8%	16,599	23.2%	14.9%
Hennepin	32,365	23.6%	35,397	24.5%	41,821	28.0%	47,076	30.4%	47,377	30.1%	27.9%
Ramsey	22,255	31.3%	26,651	34.5%	29,064	35.7%	34,455	40.2%	36,176	41.1%	31.5%
Surr. Metro	19,097	12.0%	22,870	13.2%	23,905	13.2%	24,640	13.1%	24,211	12.5%	3.8%
State	178,699	23.3%	197,669	24.6%	208,391	25.3%	221,969	26.3%	219,932	26.0%	11.6%

Data for all years is available at *www.cdf-mn.org*.



Source: MN Dept. of Children, Families and Learning



KIDS COUNT In Action

KIDS Initiative

http://www.mnkids.org

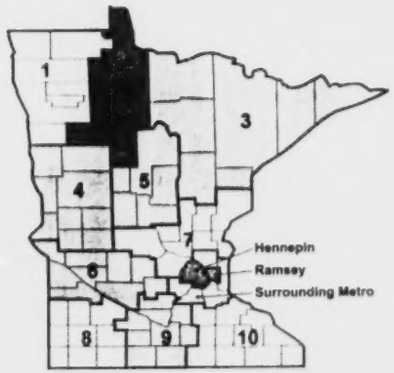
Finally there is one place to easily find all available state data about Minnesota children. The Minnesota KIDS website, www.mnkids.org, was launched in the fall of 2000, and is already receiving a great deal of positive feedback. According to Janel Harris at the Minnesota Department of Health, the purpose of the Initiative's website is to make child health and well-being indicators more readily accessible to both policy-makers and the public.

The KIDS Initiative involves a collaboration of six partner agencies: the MN Department of Health, the MN Department of Human Services, the MN Department of Children, Families and Learning, Minnesota Planning, the University of Minnesota and the KIDS COUNT Project at Children's Defense Fund of Minnesota. The idea of the initiative began with an interest in health indicators, and the project moved forward as a result of positive responses from state and private agencies and the University. Start-up funds were provided through a small grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The best outcome of the website, according to Harris, is that it gives people the power to make decisions based on scientific data, instead of responding based on a "gut feeling" or initial reaction. It also makes it much easier to find data scattered across a variety of agencies and web sites. People who have attended web site training sessions are involved in the areas of education, health and human services, and they found the information from the website to be valuable for both decision making and grant writing. Initial feedback also indicates that the site is easy to use, and contains a great wealth of information at the county, state and federal levels.

Starting Out

Children Born to Teenage Mothers



Percent of Children Born to Teenage Mothers in Minnesota, Compared to Average

- Significantly Less Than Average
- At or Near Average
- Significantly More Than Average

What Does This Indicator Measure?

The number of children born to mothers under eighteen years of age, and the three year birth rate for young women ages 15-17. The rate of these births is given as a three-year average for ages 15-17 in order to increase accuracy for smaller regions and counties.

Why Is It Important?

Births to young women present difficulties both for the young mothers and for their children. Young mothers are more likely not to complete high school and are less able to support their families than older mothers. Most young fathers are also ill-equipped to take on the responsibilities of fathering due to lack of education and job skills, leading to low wages. Children born to young mothers are more likely to have increased health, academic and social problems as they grow up, including poorer school performance, and an increased risk of child abuse and neglect.

Many Minnesota adolescents are sexually active, according to the 1998 Minnesota Student Survey conducted by the Minnesota Department of Children Families and Learning. By ninth grade, 20% of females and 28% of males are sexually active. By twelfth grade, the percentages are 51% of females and 49% of males. However, these rates have declined by 25% for males and 16% for females since 1989. Only half of sexually active twelfth graders reported using a condom the last time they had sex.

How Can We Improve?

Successful education programs focus on: reducing sexual behaviors that lead to unintended pregnancy; using behavioral goals, teaching methods, and materials that are appropriate to the age, sexual experience, and culture of the students; using proven effective approaches and teaching methods, including activities that address social and peer pressures about sexual activity; and utilizing trained teachers and/or peers.

Recent surveys of adolescents by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy also show that they pay close attention to the values and beliefs of their parents, and that this strongly influences their sexual behavior. Finally, helping young people develop positive beliefs about their future possibilities may reduce the likelihood of early childbearing.

Minnesota Trends

In 1999, 1,887 children were born to mothers under 18. The rate of births has declined since 1993 for almost every region as well as for the state as a whole. Region 2 and Hennepin and Ramsey counties had the highest adolescent birth rates in the state. Both Hennepin County and Region 5 had relatively high rates in 1997-99 but also had major declines over the decade.

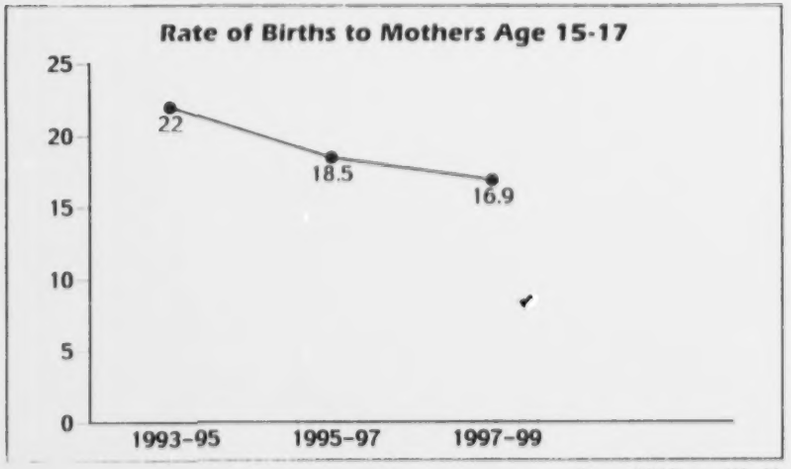
For More Information

MN Organization on Adolescent Pregnancy, Prevention and Parenting. (MOAPPP) Strengthening policies and programs related to adolescent pregnancy, prevention and parenting in Minnesota. (651) 644-1417. www.moappp.org

The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. (202) 478-8500. www.teenpregnancy.org

Area	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999	93-95 rate/1000	95-97 rate/1000	97-99 rate/1000	% change, 93-95 to 97-99 rate
Region 1	27	29	39	24	27	16.9	15.2	12.6	-26%
Region 2	35	36	44	59	43	23.5	24.7	25.0	7%
Region 3	110	125	112	126	119	16.9	15.3	15.5	-8%
Region 4	68	82	70	70	71	17.7	14.7	15.1	-15%
Region 5	63	70	72	63	70	24.7	17.2	16.9	-32%
Region 6	48	63	66	65	69	16.8	15.8	16.4	-3%
Region 7	118	137	143	146	137	16.1	13.7	11.6	-28%
Region 8	27	46	46	53	38	14.6	15.2	13.1	-10%
Region 9	65	73	71	79	59	16.2	15.7	14.4	-11%
Region 10	154	149	166	156	144	16.8	14.4	14.1	-16%
Hennepin	557	558	568	546	510	31.5	26.7	23.4	-26%
Ramsey	320	350	326	348	361	38.4	35.1	34.7	-10%
Surr. Metro	248	240	300	276	239	14.1	12.4	9.9	-30%
State	1,840	1,958	2,023	2,011	1,887	22.0	18.5	16.9	-23%

Data for all years is available at *www.cdf-mn.org*.



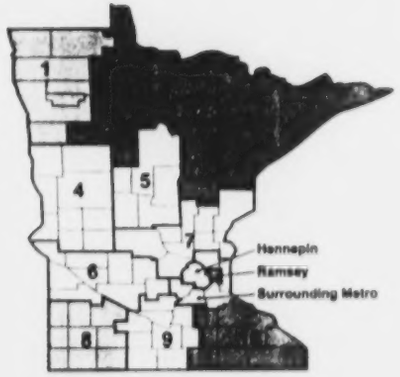
Source: MN Dept. of Health

Statewide Statistics: Children Born to Teenage Mothers

	All Children	African-American	American Indian	Asian	White	Hispanic*
1991	1,840	322	132	164	1,119	103
1992	1,911	389	122	105	1,174	121
1993	1,958	357	137	139	1,182	143
1994	1,999	361	157	108	1,234	139
1995	2,033	369	128	154	1,235	147
1996	2,017	325	106	174	1,180	192
1997	2,011	344	125	199	1,309	183
1998	1,940	353	146	233	1,177	221
1999	1,887	327	131	237	1,168	229

* may be of any race

Children Born at Low Birth Weight



Percent of Children Born at Low Birth Weight in Minnesota, Compared to Average

- Significantly Less Than Average
- At or Near Average
- Significantly More Than Average

What Does This Indicator Measure?

The number of infants born weighing less than 2500 grams (5.5 pounds) including those born prematurely (before 37 weeks) and those born at full term but underweight, as a percentage of all births.

Why Is It Important?

As a group, infants born at low birth weight have higher rates of health problems than other children. By school age, children born at low birth weight are more likely to have mild learning disabilities, attention disorders, developmental impairments, and breathing problems.

Measuring the number of children born at low birth weight is also a good indicator of the overall level of prenatal care and maternal health. The three major risk factors for low birth weight are cigarette smoking during pregnancy, low maternal weight gain, and low pre-pregnancy weight. Other risks include overall maternal health, fetal infection, genetic make-up, and other health problems. Also, multiple births (twins, triplets, etc.) are more likely to be born at low birth weight. Low birth weight is more prevalent in births to African-American and Hispanic/Latino women, and to women who give birth at younger ages.

How Can We Improve?

The three most effective prenatal intervention efforts identified by researchers are reducing smoking by pregnant women, improving nutrition for pregnant women, and providing better prenatal care. Consuming adequate amounts of folic acid throughout pregnancy may also reduce the risk of having a pre-term and low birth weight baby. Additional research into the causes of disparities among racial and ethnic groups is also needed, because these disparities exist even when studies have taken into account higher rates of other risk factors such as lack of prenatal care.

A recent study of the WIC program (Women, Infants and Children), conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, found that mothers receiving WIC had:

- Longer pregnancies
- Fewer premature births
- Fewer low birth-weight babies
- Greater likelihood of prenatal care

The program saved approximately two to three dollars in health care costs for every one dollar spent on WIC.

Minnesota Trends

Just over one out of every seventeen children born in Minnesota in 1999 was born at low birth weight. This rate has increased since the first part of the decade. Low birth weight babies were the most frequent in Ramsey County and in Regions 2, 3, and 10. While all areas of the state saw an increase through the decade, in some regions the increase was much larger than the state increase. African-American children are more likely to be born at low birth weight than are children of other races.

For More Information

March of Dimes. The mission of the March of Dimes is to improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects and infant mortality. (612) 835-3035. www.modimes.org

US Department of Agriculture, WIC Program Study. www.fns.usda.gov/wic/CONTENT/howwichelps.htm

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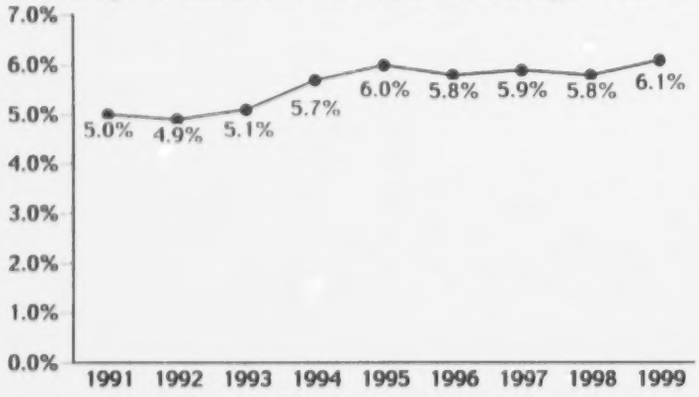
Children's Defense Fund of MN, 200 University Ave. W., Suite 210, St. Paul, MN 55103; 612/227-6121; www.cdf-mn.org

Area	1991 #	1991 %	1993 #	1993 %	1995 #	1995 %	1997 #	1997 %	1999 #	1999 %	1991-1999 % change
Region 1	58	4.9%	39	3.5%	61	5.2%	64	5.7%	61	6.0%	22%
Region 2	42	4.0%	56	6.0%	52	5.5%	58	6.2%	64	6.9%	73%
Region 3	165	4.7%	169	5.0%	185	5.8%	176	5.4%	218	6.8%	45%
Region 4	119	4.8%	116	5.0%	116	5.1%	134	5.6%	121	5.1%	8%
Region 5	87	4.7%	94	5.3%	78	4.8%	91	5.4%	89	4.9%	4%
Region 6	59	2.8%	75	3.7%	115	5.8%	114	5.4%	103	5.2%	82%
Region 7	276	4.9%	278	5.0%	285	5.1%	331	5.6%	332	5.2%	7%
Region 8	44	2.8%	73	4.7%	68	4.5%	66	4.4%	81	5.8%	110%
Region 9	137	5.0%	107	4.1%	144	5.7%	136	5.3%	137	5.3%	7%
Region 10	277	4.5%	314	5.5%	340	6.2%	336	5.9%	388	6.8%	50%
Hennepin	967	5.8%	911	5.8	986	6.4%	1012	6.5%	1020	6.4%	10%
Ramsey	485	5.9%	428	5.5	491	6.6%	500	6.7%	570	7.5%	28%
Surr. Metro	623	4.5%	660	4.7%	787	5.5%	783	5.4%	831	5.6%	23%
State	3,339	5.0%	3,320	5.1%	3709	5.9%	3801	5.9%	4016	6.1%	22%

Data for all years is available at *www.cdf-mn.org*.

Percentage of Children Born at Low Birth Weight, 1991-99



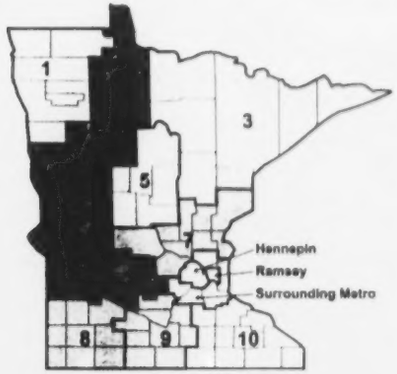
Source: MN Dept. of Health

Statewide Statistics: Children Born With Low Birth Weight (less than 2500 grams) (as a percent of all births)

	All Children		African-American		American Indian		Asian		White		Hispanic*	
1991	3,339	5%	406	12%	93	6%	138	6%	2,692	5%	79	6%
1992	3,211	5%	366	10%	88	6%	131	5%	2,618	5%	73	5%
1993	3,320	5%	348	10%	100	7%	174	7%	2,675	5%	85	5%
1994	3,646	6%	429	12%	94	7%	192	7%	2,893	5%	107	6%
1995	3,709	6%	405	11%	105	8%	181	6%	2,960	5%	129	7%
1996	3,715	6%	365	12%	63	6%	175	7%	2,936	5%	138	6%
1997	3,801	6%	366	11%	80	7%	189	7%	3,110	6%	169	7%
1998	3,806	6%	468	10%	87	6%	221	7%	2,993	5%	n/a	
1999	4,016	6%	534	11%	104	7%	280	8%	3,060	6%	207	6%

*May be of any race

Children with School Readiness Problems



Percent of Children with School Readiness Problems in Minnesota, Compared to Average

- Significantly Less Than Average
- At or Near Average
- Significantly More Than Average

What Does This Indicator Measure?

How many referrals for problems were made among preschoolers screened in the Early Childhood Screening Program. Required screening components are sensory screening (vision and hearing), growth (height and weight measurement), developmental (cognitive, social/emotional, fine/gross motor, speech/language), immunization review, an identification of risk factors that may influence learning, and a summary interview with parent. Children may also be screened for health insurance coverage. Appropriate referrals are made for children who need additional services in order to be school ready. The target age for screening is between the ages of three and four.

For More Information

The National Association for the Education of Young Children. Information on the importance of education for young children 0-8. www.naeyc.org;

I Am Your Child, public affairs campaign to make child development a top priority for our nation. www.iamyourchild.org;

Why Is It Important?

School readiness has three components: the children, the schools, and the family/community. According to a recent report from Child Trends on School Readiness: Helping Communities Get Children Ready for School and Schools Ready for Children, children who are ready for school display physical well-being, social and emotional development, learning skills, language development and general knowledge. Also, schools that are ready for children will create a smooth transition between home and school, are committed to the success of every child, and take responsibility for the results of education. Parents are their children's first teachers. By investing time into helping their child learn and providing a good role model for them, parents contribute to their child's school readiness.

How Can We Improve?

Children's readiness to learn can be improved through regular doctor visits and immunizations, high-quality early childhood care and education programs for children, and parents reading to their children. Increased access to health care, support for families and education for parents will create an atmosphere to prepare children for school. Schools can be more ready for children by using home visits, orientation sessions for children and parents, partnering with early childhood programs, and inviting parents to become involved in the classroom. Children who are identified with possible problems should receive immediate referral and follow-up. Finally, communities can assist parents by providing support and parenting education. Screening programs such as those offered through school districts, child and teen checkups, Head Start and other health providers should work together to provide comprehensive screening for young children.

Minnesota Trends

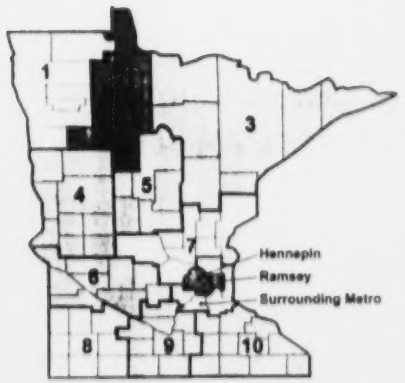
Among the 58,205 young children screened for school readiness in 1999-2000, just over 3% of their screening tests for health and developmental problems resulted in referrals for additional assistance. Almost all eligible students participate in the Early Childhood Screening Program. However, the average age of screenings varies between regions. In general, the earlier a child is screened, the more opportunity for necessary services to be provided and for the child to start school ready to learn. The percentage of screenings resulting in referrals also differed between regions. Some of these differences may be a result of variation in screening procedures or reporting, but some also reflect differences in school readiness among children in different regions of the state.

Area	Number of children screened, 1999-2000	Average age of screening, 99-00	Number of referrals made	Total screenings	% of screenings
Region 1	968	3.5	280	9,576	2.9%
Region 2	751	3.6	439	6,866	6.4%
Region 3	3,148	3.9	1,159	30,667	3.8%
Region 4	1,891	3.9	962	17,799	5.4%
Region 5	1,475	3.9	442	13,764	3.2%
Region 6	1,851	3.6	1,132	17,873	6.3%
Region 7	5,646	3.9	2,121	52,494	4.0%
Region 8	1,651	3.7	718	15,704	4.6%
Region 9	2,261	3.7	923	21,250	4.3%
Region 10	5,274	3.9	1,570	49,048	3.2%
Hennepin	11,013	4.1	2,855	92,897	3.1%
Ramsey	7,286	4.1	1,743	65,188	2.7%
Surr. Metro	14,969	4.1	4,081	139,854	2.9%
STATE	58,184	4.0	18,425	540,330	3.4%

Early Childhood Screening Program Data

	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00
Total Children Screened	68,376	66,134	63,368	58,205
% of Eligible Children Screened	95.9%	99.7%	90.1%	86.8%
Percentage of screenings resulting in referrals	3.1%	3.0%	3.6%	3.4%
Hearing Problems Referrals	3,490	3,647	3,553	3,417
% of all screenings for Hearing Problems	6.6%	6.3%	6.4%	6.6%
Vision Problems Referrals	2,176	2,027	1,985	2,210
% of all screenings for Vision Problems	4.0%	3.5%	3.6%	4.3%
Developmental Delay Referrals	8,499	8,150	7,694	7,889
% of all screenings for Developmental Delays	4.0%	3.0%	3.4%	3.9%
Health Insurance Referrals	362	651	601	970
% of all screenings for Health Insurance	0.7%	1.5%	1.3%	2.2%

Children Transferring Schools



Percent of Children Transferring Schools in Minnesota, Compared to Average

- Significantly Less Than Average
- At or Near Average
- Significantly More Than Average

What Does This Indicator Measure?

The number of transfers occurring between public schools within a district or between schools in different districts during the school year, compared to the total school enrollment. Students who transferred more than once are counted each time they transfer schools.

Why Is It Important?

According to a study on school mobility from the Kids Mobility Project, students who move often have lower attendance rates, which impacts their school achievement. Studies have found that average reading scores for students who moved three or more times were half those of students who did not move. Students who, on average, were absent 20% of the time scored 20 points lower than students who attended school nearly every day. Also, students who moved often had more problems with behavior and making friends and were more likely to be suspended.

Although moves are sometimes positive for families, 59% of families who moved in the study did so to cope with housing or personal problems, and 21% were forced to move because of eviction, property condemnation, etc. Although available state data is not kept by race or economic status, in this study, students of color and low-income students were most likely to be mobile.

How Can We Improve?

Safe, affordable, stable housing is key to reducing frequent family moves. This involves public and private initiatives at state and local levels to create, rehabilitate and maintain existing affordable housing. Additional efforts should be made to keep children in the same school when possible, even if families move within a district or experience a period of homelessness. Efforts to standardize curriculum across schools can also help ease transitions for students.

Minnesota Trends

There was about one transfer for every seven children during the 1998-99 school year. After three years of increases, the percentage of transfers in all Minnesota schools decreased by almost 5% from 1997-98 to 1998-99. Over the past seven years, transfers increased in almost every region. Regions 2, 3, and 6 saw the largest increases; although Hennepin and Ramsey Counties had the highest percentages of transfers, their rates did not increase significantly over time. Schools in the western Minnesota regions had the most stable enrollment.

For More Information

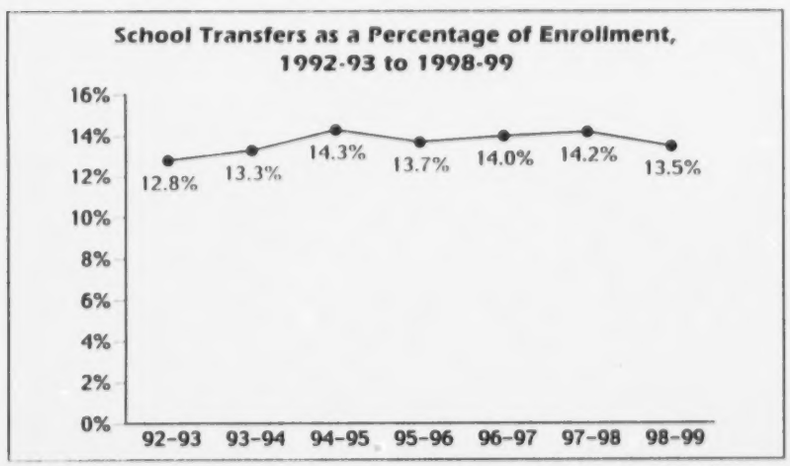
Kids Mobility Project Report. Family Housing Fund, Hennepin County, Minneapolis Public Schools and University of Minnesota, 1995. www.fhfund.org/Research/kids.htm

Minnesota Housing Partnership. Information on housing issues and activities in Minnesota. (612) 874-0112. www.mhponline.org

MICAH (Metropolitan Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing) mobilizing congregations and people of all faiths to address the root causes of inadequate housing. (612) 871-8980. www.micah.org

Area	1992-93		1994-95		1996-97		1998-99		93-94 to 98-99
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	% change
Region 1	1,757	9.2%	2,228	11.8%	3,980	21.4%	1,892	10.7%	16.5%
Region 2	2,418	16.6%	2,852	18.8%	3,585	23.4%	3,504	23.1%	39.0%
Region 3	6,985	12.4%	7,986	14.2%	8,176	14.7%	8,204	15.2%	22.9%
Region 4	3,838	10.5%	4,552	12.3%	4,729	12.8%	4,319	11.9%	13.3%
Region 5	3,381	12.0%	3,636	12.6%	3,816	13.1%	3,470	11.9%	-0.9%
Region 6	3,252	9.9%	3,570	10.9%	3,683	10.5%	3,827	12.0%	21.0%
Region 7	7,900	9.9%	9,424	11.3%	8,872	10.3%	9,008	10.3%	4.6%
Region 8	2,116	9.3%	2,027	8.8%	2,559	11.1%	1,991	8.9%	-3.9%
Region 9	3,154	8.5%	3,871	10.0%	4,086	10.6%	3,814	10.2%	19.7%
Region 10	7,272	9.6%	8,090	10.7%	8,791	11.3%	8,731	11.3%	17.8%
Hennepin	23,929	17.2%	26,003	19.5%	26,012	17.3%	26,789	17.2%	0.0%
Ramsey	12,989	17.2%	17,135	21.6%	16,335	19.5%	15,494	17.8%	3.9%
Surr. Metro	20,691	12.7%	22,734	13.0%	22,511	12.2%	22,438	11.7%	-7.2%
State	99,682	12.8%	115,437	14.3%	116,936	14.0%	113,481	13.5%	5.3%

Data for all years is available at *www.cdf-mn.org*.



Source: MN Dept. of Children, Families and Learning

KIDS COUNT In Action

The **Congregations Concerned for Children Child Advocacy Network (CCC-CAN)** is an interfaith network of lay advocates working for the needs of Minnesota's children. With their goal of having a network of at least one representative from every congregation in Minnesota, CCC-CAN advocates for children living in poverty or experiencing violence.

Congregations Concerned for Children
Child Advocacy Network

www.ccccan.org

CCC-CAN uses the KIDSCOUNT databook as its primary source of facts about children in Minnesota. They consolidate pertinent information into a general fact sheet and use county-specific data when making presentations to various congregations. They also use the data to choose three or four issues to target for the year.

According to Norma Bourland, director of CCC-CAN, seeing the numbers in the databook helps her become aware of problems that she might not otherwise notice. She says, "It is a call to action when you see concrete facts."

Last year, the data book reported that the numbers for child abuse and neglect had not gone down. A volunteer from CCC-CAN found a case study of a governor in Vermont who learned that one of the key factors to preventing abuse and neglect was targeted home visiting for newborns. With the help of the network of advocates, attention was brought to this preventive measure in Minnesota, and the bill passed, allocating $21 million for targeted home visits and $15 million for counties' own prevention programs.

Challenges to Success

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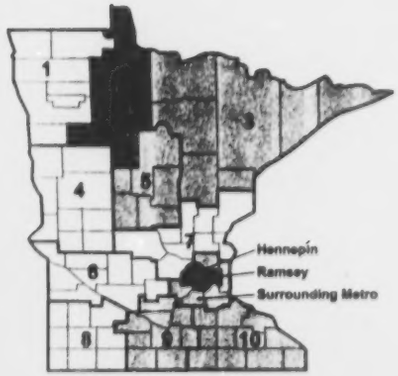
Children Not Graduating on Time



Percent of Children Dropping Out of School in Minnesota, Compared to Average

- Significantly Less Than Average
- At or Near Average
- Significantly More Than Average

What Does This Indicator Measure?

The number of students from a particular class (i.e. the Class of 1998) who do not graduate on time compared to the total number of students. Students who do not graduate on time either dropped out sometime between ninth and twelfth grades, or continued on in high school. This differs from the single year drop-out rate used in previous data books, which measure the number of students of all grades who drop out in a particular year.

For More Information

National Dropout Prevention Center.
(864) 656-2599.
www.dropoutprevention.org

Why Is It Important?

Not graduating from high school is associated with many future problems for young adults. Students who drop out of school are three times as likely to slip into poverty in adulthood than those who finish high school. Job prospects are minimal for young and unskilled workers, and the earnings of high school dropouts are significantly lower than for those who complete more education. Measuring the on-time graduation rate also helps measure the effectiveness of schools in educating students.

How Can We Improve?

There is a high correlation between truancy and dropping out of school. Studies on truancy show that children at risk of dropping out can be detected as early as third grade. Early intervention with students and families can help break the pattern of truancy and ensure that children will complete high school.

Mentoring, which provides guidance and support for the child, can have a powerful effect on dropout rates. Students who drop out may feel that nobody in their life cares what they do, but mentors can reverse these negative thoughts and beliefs. In a recent study of the Big Brother/Big Sister program, it was shown that students participating in the mentoring program decreased their number of skipped classes by 37%.

Another preventive technique is alternative schooling, which can meet the variety of student needs not addressed by mainstream schools. By keeping a low teacher/student ratio, placing high expectations on students, and maintaining a flexible school schedule, they provide equal access to education for all students.

Minnesota Trends

Out of the entire class of 1999, about 21% of students did not graduate on time. Half of these students dropped out, and half continued on in Minnesota schools. Between 1997 and 1999, the number of seniors not graduating on time decreased by 13.5%. The most students graduated on time in Regions 1 and 8 and the fewest in Hennepin and Ramsey counties and in Region 2. Students of color were much less likely than white students to graduate on time. African American students were almost four times more likely than white students not to graduate on time, American Indian and Hispanic students were about three and a half times more likely, and Asian students were almost twice as likely as white students to not graduate on time.

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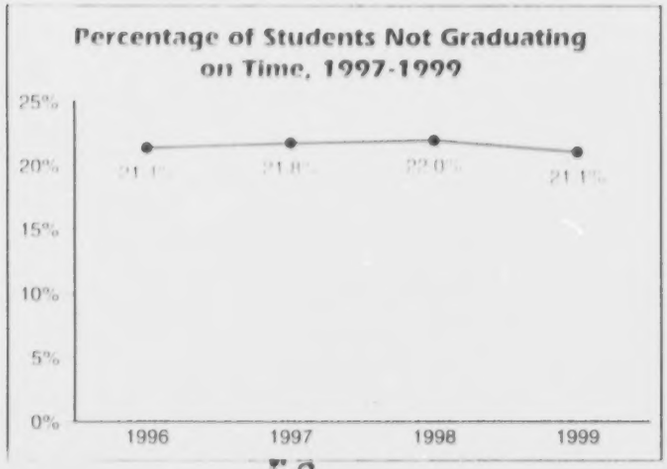
Area	1997		1998		1999		1997-1999
	#	%	#	%	#	%	% change
Region 1	111	8.7%	126	9.2%	104	7.6%	-12.0%
Region 2	168	17.4%	207	20.3%	206	19.7%	12.8%
Region 3	594	14.6%	529	13.1%	581	13.7%	-6.0%
Region 4	217	8.9%	262	10.2%	231	8.8%	-1.2%
Region 5	381	18.0%	338	16.5%	345	16.3%	-9.3%
Region 6	200	8.7%	191	7.9%	220	9.2%	5.9%
Region 7	670	12.4%	708	12.1%	589	10.1%	-18.4%
Region 8	203	11.4%	116	6.8%	125	7.4%	-34.6%
Region 9	230	8.3%	246	8.5%	294	9.8%	18.9%
Region 10	631	12.0%	710	12.8%	726	13.1%	9.2%
Hennepin	2,180	25.3%	2,353	26.1%	2,213	23.5%	-7.2%
Ramsey	1,259	26.2%	1,318	26.7%	1,165	23.0%	-12.3%
Surr. Metro	1,652	15.3%	1,600	14.0%	1,595	13.3%	-13.5%
State	13,019	21.8%	13,846	22.0%	13,588	21.1%	-3.2%



Statewide Statistics: Children Not Graduating on Time

	All Children	African-American	American Indian	Asian	White	Hispanic
1996	12,085 21.4%	1,501 66.8%	595 62.9%	523 31.0%	9,030 17.8%	436 55.0%
1997	13,019 21.8%	1,615 64.4%	642 58.9%	568 31.8%	9,635 18.0%	559 56.2%
1998	13,846 22.0%	1,898 64.0%	677 56.5%	677 32.4%	10,067 18.1%	527 50.8%
1999	13,558 21.1%	1,843 61.3%	720 57.5%	715 31.2%	9,711 17.1%	569 51.8%

Source: MN Dept. of Children, Families and Learning

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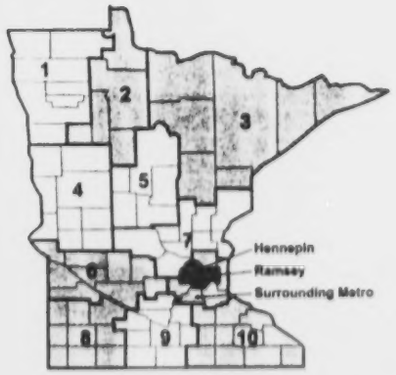
Children Arrested for Serious Crime



Percent of Children Arrested for Serious Crime in Minnesota, Compared to Average

- Significantly Less Than Average
- At or Near Average
- Significantly More Than Average

What Does This Indicator Measure?

The number of children arrested for either crimes against people (murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault) or crimes against property (burglary, auto theft, larceny.) The rate given is the number of arrests for these crimes divided by the estimated number of children ages 10-17. (This rate was not used in previous years.) Variations in these numbers reflect the fact that arrest practices vary between jurisdictions.

Why Is It Important?

Crime has a negative effect on victims, perpetrators, and the community as a whole. Most children who commit crimes have other problems in their lives, including earlier victimization as young children, learning disabilities, substance abuse, family dysfunction, poor neighborhoods and poverty. These "at-risk" children are also more likely to drop out of school and be unemployed, and face an increased likelihood of developing mental health problems.

For More Information:

Partnerships Against Violence Network. A virtual library of information about violence and youth-at-risk, representing data from seven different Federal agencies. www.pavnet.org

Teen Risk Taking: Promising Prevention Programs and Approaches, Urban Institute, (202) 261-5709, www.urban.org

Less Hype, More Help: Reducing Juvenile Crime, What Works-and What Doesn't by Richard A. Mendel, American Youth Policy Forum, (202) 775-9731, www.aypf.org

How Can We Improve?

There are two ways to approach this situation: work to prevent youth from committing crimes in the first place, and work with youth who have already committed one or more crimes. Some studies have shown that early in life, targeted home visits and enriched pre-school programs for high risk children have lowered later delinquency by 80%. Providing training for parents and social competency for children with conduct disorders reduces problem behaviors in 70-90% of the cases. Violence prevention curricula in both middle and high school have been shown to decrease fighting and violent behavior among students. Also, statistics show that 50% of crimes committed by youth occur in the hours immediately following school. Targeted after-school activities and mentoring programs would reduce the amount of "down-time" children have to get into trouble.

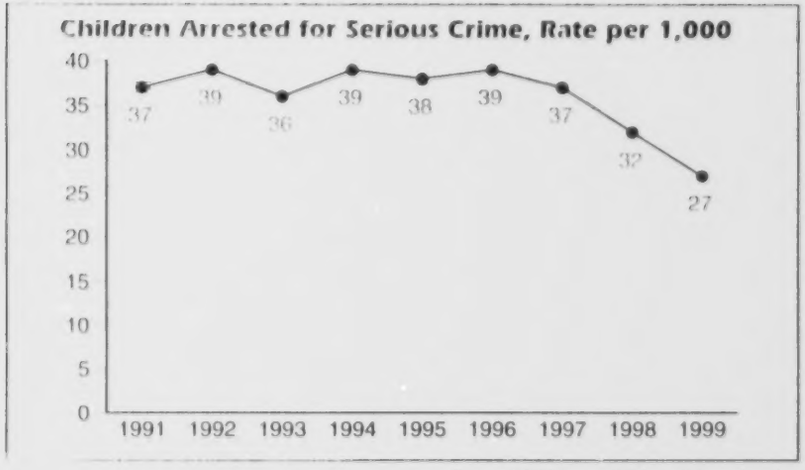
Changes also need to be made with the way in which juvenile offenders are handled. The threat of being tried as an adult does not deter youth from crime, and transferring youth to adult courts increases future criminal behavior. In addition, more non-residential services need to be created to help rehabilitate offenders. Developing alternative programs to hold offenders accountable while connecting them to positive resources in the community and providing quality aftercare to help offenders make successful transitions back into the community would be beneficial for all involved.

Minnesota Trends

There were 15,737 arrests of children for serious crimes in 1999, a rate of 27 arrests per 1,000 children. This rate has decreased by 31% since 1996. Of all arrests of children for serious crimes, 69% were for larceny (theft, including shoplifting); only 10% were for violent crimes, primarily assault. Rates decreased substantially for all regions, with the exception of Region 8. The highest rates were in Hennepin and Ramsey counties, and the lowest rates were in Regions 1 and 4.

Area	1991		1993		1995		1997		1999		1991-1999
	#	rate/1000	#	rate/1000	#	rate/1000	#	rate/1000	#	rate/1000	% change
Region 1	164	15	227	20	201	17	227	19	151	13	-15%
Region 2	360	41	335	36	329	33	359	34	225	21	-49%
Region 3	1,110	32	1,019	27	1,216	32	1,094	28	1,046	27	-15%
Region 4	658	29	665	28	720	29	706	27	446	17	-41%
Region 5	317	19	354	20	329	17	312	16	217	11	-44%
Region 6	530	28	624	31	644	31	679	32	472	22	-20%
Region 7	1,188	25	1,466	28	1,532	27	1,692	28	881	14	-44%
Region 8	225	16	339	22	239	15	380	24	357	23	49%
Region 9	689	25	642	25	698	26	742	27	451	17	-33%
Region 10	1,415	30	1,556	31	1,803	35	1,656	31	1,388	26	-15%
Hennepin	4,691	53	4,310	46	5,374	55	5,490	54	4,750	46	-14%
Ramsey	2,767	63	3,046	66	3,385	71	3,484	71	2,431	49	-23%
Surr. Metro	3,669	38	3,921	36	3,811	32	3,729	30	2,911	22	-42%
State	17,688	37	18,509	36	20,354	38	20,512	37	15,737	27	-27%

Data for all years is available at *www.cdf-mn.org*.



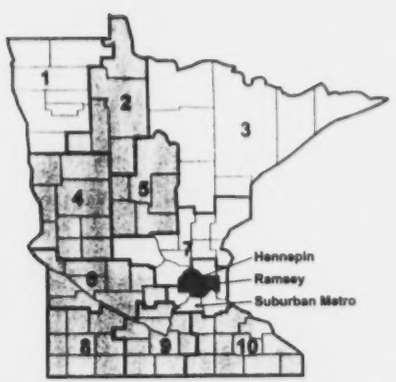
Source: MN Bureau of Criminal Apprehension

Statewide Statistics: Children Arrested for Serious Crimes

	All Children	African-American	American Indian	Asian	White	Hispanic*
1991	17,688	2,604	1,010	558	13,516	1,849
1992	19,382	2,815	950	606	14,959	1,700
1993	18,509	2,836	939	717	14,017	1,110
1994	20,721	3,626	914	826	15,355	1,601
1995	20,354	3,541	1,016	894	14,903	1,673
1996	21,282	3,684	946	1,199	15,453	1,880
1997	20,512	3,838	974	1,322	14,378	1,915
1998	18,416	3,577	855	1,151	12,833	n/a
1999	15,737	3,325	775	1,199	10,438	n/a

* Hispanic may be of any race

Children Abused and Neglected



Percent of Children Abused and Neglected in Minnesota, Compared to Average

- Significantly Less Than Average
- At or Near Average
- Significantly More Than Average

What Does This Indicator Measure?

The number of children reported to county child protective services as abused or neglected, whose situations are investigated and who are found to have been abused or neglected, and the rate per 1,000 children. This number does not measure cases that are not reported, or cases that are reported but not investigated, or cases that are investigated but wrongly dismissed.

Why Is It Important?

Young abused and neglected children are more likely to be socially withdrawn and physically aggressive, and to have learning problems. Neglect is just as damaging to children as outright physical, sexual and emotional abuse. Especially for very young children, lack of parental responsiveness to their basic needs can thwart normal physical, mental and social development. As adolescents, abused and neglected children are more likely to be involved in crime, become pregnant, perform poorly at school, use drugs and alcohol, or attempt suicide.

For More Information

Minnesota Center Against Violence and Abuse. An electronic clearinghouse that provides access to the extensive electronic resources on violence and abuse. (612) 624-0721. www.mincava.umn.edu

Child Abuse and Neglect Clearinghouse. A national resource for information on child welfare issues and the prevention, identification and treatment of child abuse and neglect. 1-800-394-3366. www.calib.com/nccanch

How Can We Improve?

Early intervention to meet the full spectrum of family needs is critical. Parenting education classes may completely meet the needs of some families. Other families may need intensive help with mental health and chemical dependency treatment, or in-home visits and support. In still other families the safety and health of their children may need to be protected by placement in foster care or with other relatives.

Minnesota Trends

Statewide, the number and rate of substantiated instances of child abuse and neglect has varied little throughout the decade. In 1999, 11,113 children were found to have been abused or neglected. Rates were highest in Hennepin and Ramsey counties, and lowest in the surrounding metro counties and in Region 7. Northern Minnesota regions saw decreases in substantiated reports over time, while Regions 6, 8, 10 and Hennepin and Ramsey counties saw increases.

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Area	1991		1993		1995		1997		1999		91-99
	#	rate/1000	#	rate/1000	#	rate/1000	#	rate/1000	#	rate/1000	% change
Region1	197	7.5	220	8.4	220	8.6	229	9.1	158	6.4	-14%
Region 2	198	9.9	211	10.3	187	8.8	166	7.8	172	8.0	-20%
Region 3	642	8.1	607	7.6	504	6.3	485	6.2	531	6.8	-16%
Region 4	541	10.1	501	9.3	494	9.2	488	9.1	423	7.8	-23%
Region 5	473	12.3	459	11.6	383	9.5	308	7.6	369	8.9	-28%
Region 6	336	7.3	400	8.6	457	10.1	348	7.8	403	8.9	23%
Region 7	520	4.5	468	3.9	512	4.1	560	4.3	621	4.6	1%
Region 8	233	6.5	338	9.4	261	7.8	226	7.0	231	7.3	13%
Region 9	711	10.3	688	9.9	663	11.5	487	8.5	541	9.6	-7%
Region 10	691	5.9	786	6.6	836	7.1	812	6.9	822	6.9	17%
Hennepin	3,048	12.4	3,545	14.2	2,972	12.1	3,458	14.1	3,607	14.5	17%
Ramsey	1,233	9.7	1,350	10.5	1,411	11.6	1,705	14.0	1,646	13.6	39%
Surr. Metro	1,401	5.7	1,491	5.7	1,373	5.0	1,505	5.3	1,589	5.4	-5%
State	10,224	8.5	11,064	8.9	10,273	8.3	10,777	8.6	11,113	8.7	3%

Data for all years is available at *www.cdf-mn.org*.

Substantiated Reports of Child Abuse and Neglect, Rate Per 1,000

Source: MN Dept. of Human Services

Statewide Statistics: Children Abused and Neglected
(number of reports determined by county agencies)

	All Children	African-American	American Indian	Asian	White	Hispanic
1991	10,224	1,768	909	217	6,876	424
1992	11,217	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1993	11,058	2,273	870	195	7,090	478
1994	10,434	2,393	866	206	6,360	598
1995	10,273	2,175	846	185	6,268	663
1996	10,195	2,349	757	248	6,158	630
1997	10,777	2,699	768	269	6,259	719
1998	10,572	2,711	736	291	6,049	712
1999	11,113	2,834	989	403	5,881	816

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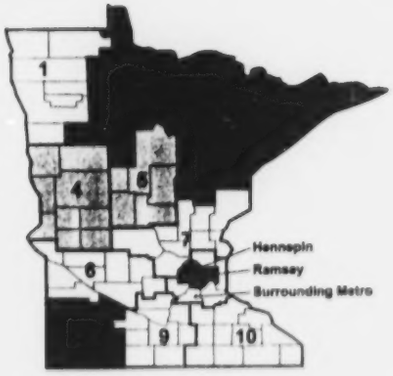
Children in Out-of-Home Placements



Percent of Children in Out-of-Home Placements in Minnesota, Compared to Average

- Significantly Less Than Average
- At or Near Average
- Significantly More Than Average

What Does This Indicator Measure?

The number of children placed in foster care, emergency foster care, group homes or residential treatment facilities by county social service agencies, and the rate per 1,000 children. Placements through the criminal justice system are not included in these numbers. Statistics for 1999 are correct as reported through December 2000.

Why Is It Important?

Children in out-of-home placement are usually there because of serious problems in their families. The placement could be because of abuse or neglect by parents or other caregivers. For older children, it could be because of conflict between them and their families. While out-of-home placement is sometimes necessary, it is a costly intervention (over $225 million in 1997) that often has few good outcomes for anyone involved.

How Can We Improve?

In many cases, families need support, education, mental health services or other community-based resources to help alleviate family difficulties. Improved services could serve as a substitute for out-of-home placements for less serious cases. Investigation and intervention by county child protection agencies could be reserved for more serious cases where children's safety and wellbeing are threatened. In this way, services would better meet the diverse needs of families.

Minnesota Trends

After an increase in the first part of the decade, the rate of out-of-home placements has remained steady through the rest of the 1990s. In 1999, 18,815 children were in out-of-home placements for some or all of the year, which was almost 15 out of every 1,000 children. Regions 2 and 3 and Hennepin and Ramsey counties had the highest rates of placement, while the surrounding metro counties had the lowest rate. The largest increases in out-of-home placements were in Ramsey County, Region 10 and Region 9; decreases were reported in Hennepin County, Regions 3, 8, and the surrounding metro counties.

For More Information

Child Welfare League of America.
Resources on policy, practice and data.
1-800-407-6273. www.cwla.org

Office of the Legislative Auditor. *Juvenile Out-of-Home Placement*. January 1999.
(651) 296-4708.
www.auditor.leg.state.mn.us

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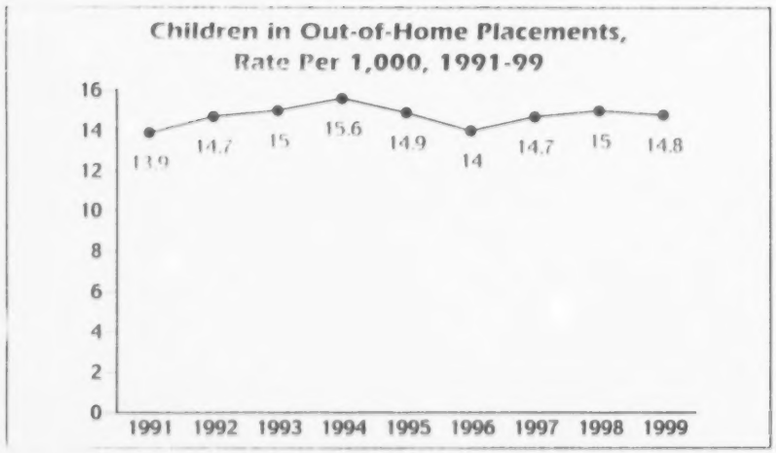
Children's Defense Fund of MN, 200 University Ave. W., Suite 210, St. Paul, MN 55103; 612/227-6121; www.cdf-mn.org

Area	1991		1993		1995		1997		1999		1991-1999
	#	rate/1000	#	rate/1000	#	rate/1000	#	rate/1000	#	rate/1000	% change
Region 1	248	9.4	253	9.6	286	11.2	358	14.2	302	12.2	30%
Region 2	394	19.8	418	20.5	456	21.6	433	20.4	434	20.1	2%
Region 3	1,899	23.9	2074	26.0	2,104	26.5	1,786	22.7	1,724	22.1	-7%
Region 4	650	12.2	669	12.4	739	13.7	768	14.3	777	14.4	18%
Region 5	544	14.1	603	15.3	632	15.6	649	16.0	662	15.9	13%
Region 6	416	9.0	469	10.1	462	10.2	414	9.2	452	10.0	11%
Region 7	1,108	9.7	1,178	9.9	1,557	12.5	1,458	11.3	1,678	12.4	29%
Region 8	390	11.6	444	13.1	506	15.2	451	13.9	322	18.5	-12%
Region 9	550	9.4	671	9.7	704	12.2	750	13.1	697	12.3	30%
Region 10	955	8.2	921	7.7	1,141	9.7	1,211	10.3	1,459	12.3	51%
Hennepin	5,813	23.6	6,713	26.8	5,457	22.1	5,095	20.8	5,001	20.1	-15%
Ramsey	1,545	12.2	1,582	12.3	1,710	14.0	2,261	18.6	2,167	17.8	46%
Surr. metro	2,265	9.2	2678	10.2	2,738	10.0	2,748	9.6	2,597	8.8	-4%
State	16,777	13.9	18,673	15.0	18,492	14.9	18,381	14.7	18,815	14.8	7%

Data for all years is available at *www.cdf-mn.org*.

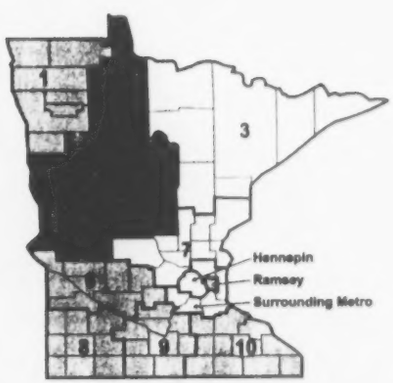


Source: MN Dept. of Human Services

Statewide Statistics: Children in Out-of-Home Placement

	All Children	African-American	American Indian	Asian	White	Hispanic
1991	16,777	3,000	1,865	344	10,777	425
1992	18,096	3,459	2,130	304	11,337	412
1993	18,673	3,860	2,108	316	11,489	562
1994	19,636	4,007	2,176	292	11,658	581
1995	18,492	3,685	2,034	308	11,308	636
1996	17,508	3,492	1,995	285	10,701	644
1997	18,381	3,981	2,030	332	10,897	726
1998	18,854	4,107	2,102	408	11,089	844

Children Dying from Homicide, Suicide and Injuries



Percent of Children Dying Violently in Minnesota, Compared to Average

- Significantly Less Than Average
- At or Near Average
- Significantly More Than Average

What Does This Indicator Measure?

The number of children who died each year from murder, suicide, car crashes or other unintentional injuries, and the rate per 10,000 children. This information is collected from death certificates. Some murders and suicides within this category may be counted as unintentional injuries. Because of small numbers, rates are given as three-year averages.

Why Is It Important?

Although the overall number of child deaths each year is relatively small, each child is a unique and precious person who cannot be replaced. Also, for every death due to injury, there are many more serious disabilities, hospitalizations and medical problems. For every completed suicide, there are numerous suicide attempts. For every murder, there are many other cases of assault and abuse. These deaths represent the tip of an iceberg of harm to children.

How Can We Improve?

Almost every one of these deaths is preventable. Proper safety seats for children and reducing drunk driving by teenagers would greatly reduce the number of auto-related fatalities. Injuries from falls, drowning and poisoning could often have been prevented by improvements to children's environments and better supervision by adults. The depression, alcohol abuse and other emotional distress that leads to suicide can be alleviated through early intervention and help for troubled children. And child deaths through murder, usually by a child's caregiver, require help and assistance to families dealing with mental health issues, chemical dependency, domestic violence, and abuse and neglect.

For More Information

Minnesota Safety Council/MN SAFE KIDS Coalition. Provides training, consultation, outreach and safety resources for preventing unintentional injuries. 1-800-444-9150. www.mnsafetycouncil.org

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. Hosts conferences, funds research and provides education and treatment programs. 1-888-333-AFSP. www.afsp.org

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Helps states and communities reduce the threat of drunk drivers, promotes motor vehicle safety. 1-888-327-4236. www.nhtsa.dot.gov

Minnesota Trends

The child death rate in Minnesota has decreased throughout the decade, to a rate of 1.3 out of every 10,000 children in 1999. This reflects primarily a decline in deaths due to injuries other than car crashes. Regions 2, 4, and 5 had the highest death rates for 1997 through 1999. The largest percentage of child deaths continues to be motor vehicle crashes, which comprise 44% of deaths in this category from 1991 through 1999. Other injuries comprise 31%, suicides are 14%, and homicides are 12%.

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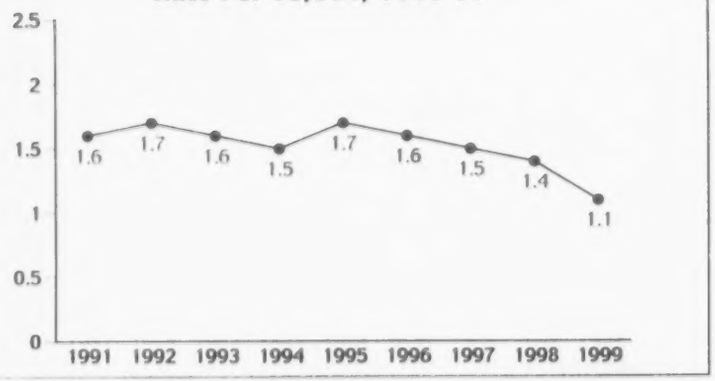
Area	1991	1993	1995	1997	1999	1991-1993 rate/10,000	1994-1996 rate/10,000	1997-1999 rate/10,000	1991-93 to 1997-99 % change
Region 1	6	7	8	9	1	2.3	2.7	1.8	-23%
Region 2	4	9	14	7	3	2.8	4.0	3.0	6%
Region 3	21	13	10	10	11	2.3	1.5	1.2	-46%
Region 4	6	6	17	10	16	1.7	2.3	2.0	21%
Region 5	13	18	5	11	7	3.3	1.8	2.4	-29%
Region 6	18	8	7	4	10	2.6	2.1	1.4	-45%
Region 7	24	20	26	18	14	1.9	2.1	1.3	-31%
Region 8	2	9	4	5	10	1.7	1.7	1.9	9%
Region 9	8	21	7	6	8	2.0	1.3	1.7	-17%
Region 10	24	10	16	23	21	1.3	1.2	1.8	41%
Hennepin	35	32	43	28	14	1.4	1.6	0.9	-34%
Ramsey	13	23	15	23	11	1.5	1.3	1.4	-2%
Surr. Metro	25	28	38	36	13	1.3	1.2	0.9	-30%
State	199	204	210	190	139	1.7	1.6	1.3	-21%

Data for all years is available at *www.cdf-mn.org*.

Child Deaths from Homicide, Suicide & Injuries, Rate Per 10,000, 1991-99



Source: MN Dept. of Health

Statewide Statistics: Children Dying Violently

	All Children	Children of Color*	Hispanic	Murder	Suicide	Motor Vehicle Crashes	Other Injuries
1991	199	30	6	21	28	73	77
1992	213	32	6	20	39	84	70
1993	204	41	10	23	27	75	79
1994	183	41	3	19	16	108	40
1995	211	44	12	29	34	75	73
1996	205	35	n/a	32	24	92	57
1997	190	35	4	16	23	83	68
1998	171	35	5	23	25	80	43
1999	139	14	6	22	20	78	19

* does not include Hispanic

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Minnesota Counties & Reservations

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Minnesota

Demographics

Estimated population, 1999	4,775,508
Estimated number of children, 1999	1,271,850
Estimated % of children, 1999	26.6%
Estimated number of children, 1991	1,209,365
% change in number of children, 1991-99	5.2%
Projected population, 2010	5,066,540
Projected number of children, 2010	1,265,090

(children defined as under 18)

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Minnesota is the twentieth largest state in the United States. The per capita income in 1998 was $29,263, eleventh highest in the country. In 1999-00, about 4% of students in the state had limited English proficiency, compared to about 2% in 1991-92. The largest industries in 1998 were services, durable goods manufacturing, and state and local government. Transportation and public utilities was the fastest growing industry, increasing over 9% between 1997 and 1998. The 1999 unemployment rate was ___%.

In the most recent national KIDS COUNT data book, which used 1997 data, Minnesota ranked best in the nation on a set of indicators of child well-being. The state ranked best on indicators of the percentage of teens not attending school and not working (ranked 1st), percent of children in poverty (2nd), percent of families with children headed by a single parent (4th), and percent low birth weight babies (5th). Minnesota did less well on indicators of the percent of children living with parents who do not have full-time, year-round employment (8th), the infant mortality rate (8th), and the rate of teen deaths by accident, homicide and suicide (11th).

	1991		1995		1999		% change, 91-99
Family Economics							
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	165,531	14.0%	148,434	12% +-1	148,434	13.1+-2	-6%
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)	-		160,781	13.0%	119,644	9.4%	-27%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	178,699	23.3%	208,391	25.3%	219,932	26.0%	12%
Starting Out							
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000	1,840		1,298	22	1,887	16.90	-23%
Children born at low birth weight	3,339	5.0%	3,709	5.9%	4,016	6.1%	22%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			112,762	13.7%	113,481	13.5%	-2%
Challenges to Success							
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			13,019	21.8%	13,556	21.1%	-3%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000	17,688	37	20,354	38	15,737	27	-27%
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000	6,997	8.5	10,273	8.3	11,113	8.6	1%
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000	11,634	13.9	12,595	15.0	12,895	14.8	6%
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	199	1.6	211	1.5	84	1.5	-6%

(a) mothers under 18

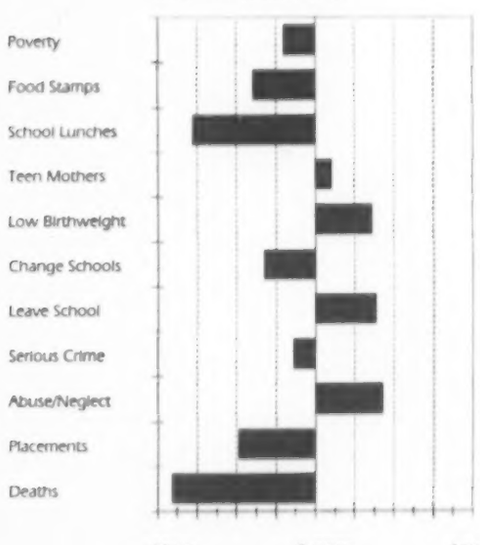
77

Aitkin

Demographics

Estimated population, 1999 14,293
Estimated number of children, 1999 3,325
Estimated % of children, 1999 ..... 23.3%
Estimated number of children, 1991 2,996
% change in number of children, 1991-99 ..... 11.0%
Projected population, 2010 14,760
Projected number of children, 2010 3,290
(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Aitkin County



Compared to the Average County 1999
(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

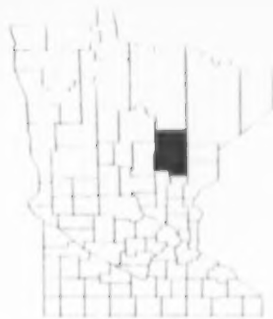
78

Aitkin County is a moderately small county located in northeastern Minnesota. The county seat is Aitkin. A portion of the Mille Lacs Reservation is located in the county. The county's per capita personal income of $19,023 was the eighth lowest among Minnesota counties in 1998. The largest industries in the county in 1998 were services, state and local government, and retail trade. Construction was the fastest growing industry, increasing by 10% from 1997 to 1998. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 7.5%.

Positives: Lower than average percentage of children not graduating on time and low birth weight babies.

Concerns: Higher than average percentage of low-income children, out-of-home placements, and child deaths.

Trends to Watch: Increase in out-of-home placements.



	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	894	30%	695	21%±5	876	25.9±7	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			693	22%	397	12%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	531	24%	1072	45%	1022	44%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	0		0	15	11	22	1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	6	5%	9	6%	6	5%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			320	13%	335	14%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			4	3%	4	3%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	23	17	15	9	11	6	15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	22	7	30	9	40	12	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	47	16	67	22	89	27	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	1		0		1		84	1.5

(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

79

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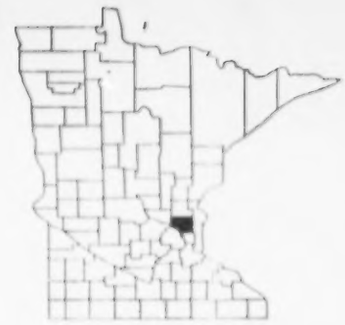
Anoka

Anoka County is part of the northern section of the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Statistical Area, and is the fourth largest county in Minnesota. The county seat is Anoka. In 1999-00, about 2% of students in the county had limited English proficiency, compared to less than .5% in 1991-92. Anoka County had a 1998 per capita personal income of $26,354, the eleventh highest in the state. In 1998, the largest industries in the county were durable goods manufacturing, services, and state and local government. The fastest growing industry in Anoka was wholesale trade, which increased almost 24% from 1997. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 2.2%.



Positives: Lower than average percentage of low-income children, and child deaths.

Concerns: Higher than average percentage of school transfers.

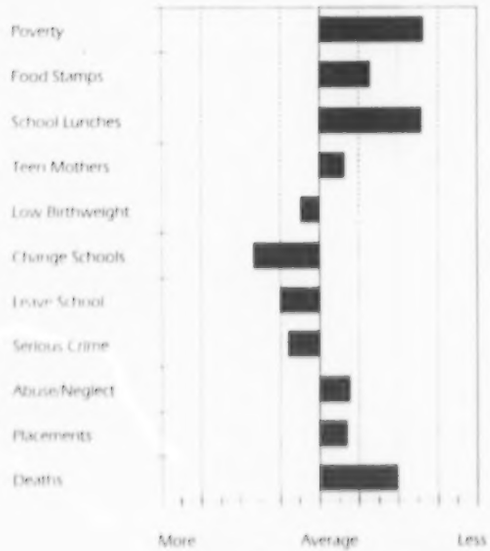
Trends to Watch: Decrease in arrest rate for serious crime.

Demographics

Estimated population, 1999	298,948
Estimated number of children, 1999	86,730
Estimated % of children, 1999	29.0%
Estimated number of children, 1991	78,161
% change in number of children, 1991-99	11.0%
Projected population, 2010	337,590
Projected number of children, 2010	92,780

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Anoka County



Compared to the Average County 1999

(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	5,415	7%	5,989	7%±2	6,971	8.1±2	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)	-		6,240	7%	4,083	5%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	8,005	15%	9,819	16%	10,069	16%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	104		116	18	88	12	1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	208	5%	226	5%	256	6%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			9,625	16%	9,288	15%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			658	18%	552	14%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	1,502	46	1,566	41	937	22	15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	401	5	432	5	520	6	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	874	11	1,157	15	1,015	12	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	7		7		5		84	1.5

(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

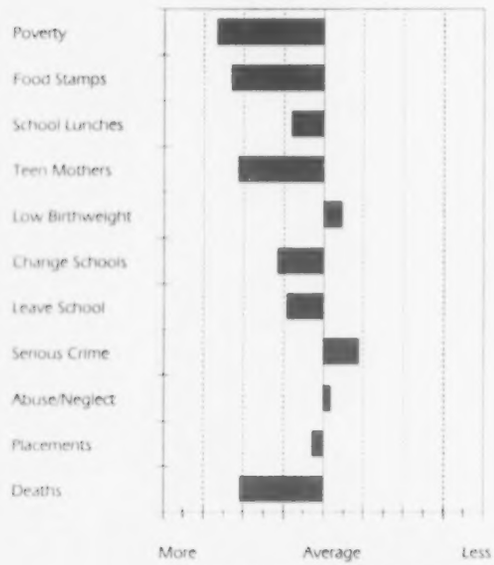
Becker

Demographics

Estimated population, 1999	29,757
Estimated number of children, 1999	8,537
Estimated % of children, 1999	28.7%
Estimated number of children, 1991	8,256
% change in number of children, 1991-99	3.4%
Projected population, 2010	30,720
Projected number of children, 2010	7,340

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Becker County



Compared to the Average County 1999

(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

82

Becker County is a mid-size county located in northwestern Minnesota. The county seat is Detroit Lakes. A portion of the White Earth Indian Reservation is located in the county. In 1998, Becker had a per capita personal income of $20,012, which was the eighteenth lowest in the state. Becker County's largest industries in 1998 were services, state and local government, and durable goods manufacturing. The fastest growing industry was construction, which increased by almost 12%. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 5.5%.

Positives: Close to average for percentage of low birth weight babies, students not graduating on time, arrest rate for serious crime and out-of-home placements.

Concerns: Higher than average percentage of children living in poverty, receiving food stamps, born to teen mothers, changing schools, and child deaths.

Trends to Watch: Decrease in percentage of children receiving food stamps.

	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	2,319	28%	1,676	20%±4	1,852	21.5±5	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			1,425	17%	1,107	13%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	1,841	37%	1,915	38%	1,704	35%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	19		10	21	18	21	1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	17	4%	14	4%	19	5%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			700	14%	668	14%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			40	12%	49	14%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	71	19	99	24	47	11	15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	71	9	63	7	61	7	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	110	13	153	19	142	17	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	2		4		2		84	1.5

(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

83

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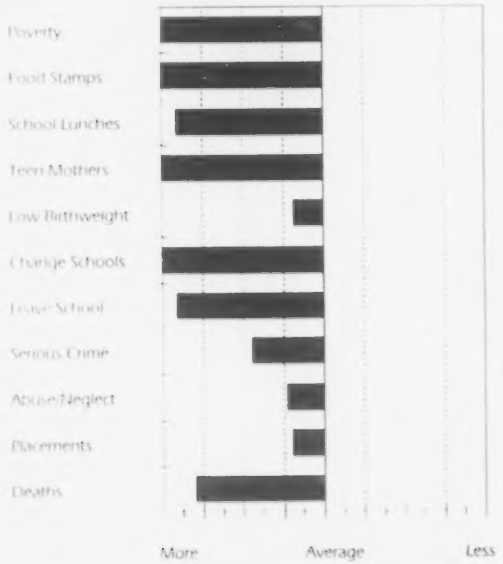
Beltrami

Demographics

Estimated population, 1999 39,210
Estimated number of children, 1999 11,797
Estimated % of children, 1999 ..... 30.1%
Estimated number of children, 1991 10,622
% change in number of children, 1991-99 ..... 11.1%
Projected population, 2010 41,340
Projected number of children, 2010 12,400
(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Beltrami County

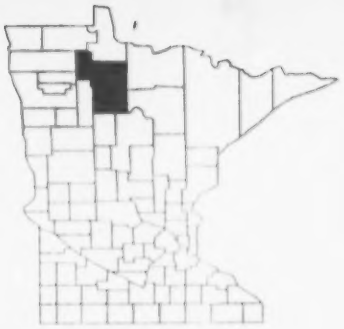


Compared to the Average County 1999

(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

84

Beltrami County is located in north central Minnesota and is the twenty-third largest county in the state. The county seat is Bemidji. Parts of the Red Lake and Leech Lake Indian Reservations are located in the county. In 1998, Beltrami had a per capita personal income of $19,630, the fifteenth lowest in Minnesota. Services, state and local government, and retail trade were the largest industries. The fastest growing industry was construction, which increased almost 8% between 1997 and 1998. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 5.2%.



Positives: Close to average for percentage of children born at low birth weight and out-of-home placements.

Concerns: Higher than average percentage of children in low-income families, teen birth rate, school transfers, children not graduating on time, arrests for serious crime and child deaths.

Trends to Watch: Increase in school transfers.

	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	3,237	32%	2,758	24%±5	3,129	26.8±7	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			3,102	27%	3,176	27%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	2,945	39%	3,557	43%	4,119	51%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *			27	30	25	30	1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	23	4%	29	5%	36	6%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			1913	23%	2474	30%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			114	23%	132	24%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	290	64	271	50	169	29	15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	90	8	91	8	110	9	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	201	19	234	22	227	19	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	2		8		1		84	1.5

(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

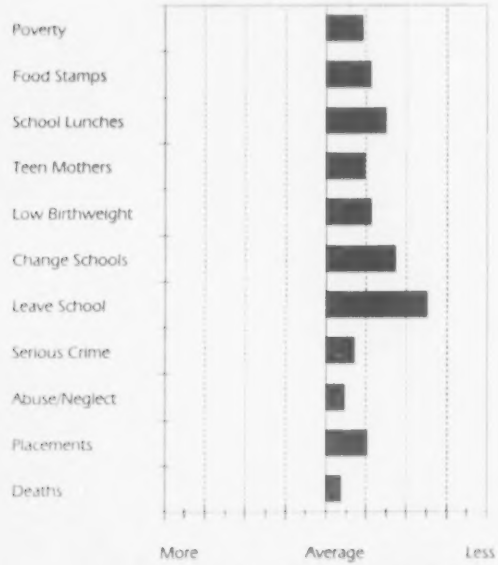
85

Benton

Demographics

Estimated population, 1999 34,832
Estimated number of children, 1999 10,473
Estimated % of children, 1999 ..... 30.1%
Estimated number of children, 1991 9,387
% change in number of children, 1991-99 ..... 11.6%
Projected population, 2010 42,450
Projected number of children, 2010 11,340
(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Benton County



Compared to the Average County 1999
(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

86

Benton County is a moderately large county located within the St. Cloud Metropolitan area in central Minnesota. The county seat is Foley. The county's per capita personal income of $21,751 ranked fifty-first in the state. The largest industries in 1998 in Benton County were services, durable goods manufacturing, and non-durable goods manufacturing. Mining was the fastest growing industry, increasing at a rate of over 50% from 1997 to 1998. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 3.1%.

Positives: Lower than average percentage of children receiving food stamps and free/reduced-price lunch, born at low birth weight, changing schools and not graduating on time.

Concerns: None based on these indicators.

Trends to Watch: Increase in number of children in out-of-home placement.

	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	1,268	14%	982	10%±2	1,295	12.4%±3	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			846	9%	534	5%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	1,058	22%	1,172	23%	1,143	22%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	4		10	14	15	11	1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	25	5%	39	8%	22	5%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			390	8%	369	7%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			10	3%	5	1%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	49	13	110	25	58	12	15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	52	6	40	4	69	7	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	53	6	78	8	105	10	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	3		5		0		84	1.5

(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

87

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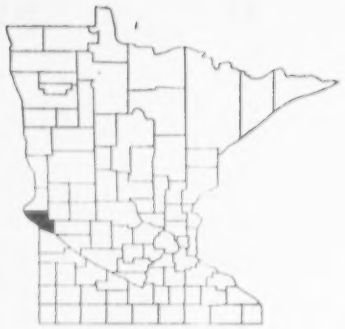
Big Stone

Big Stone County is located in west central Minnesota on the South Dakota border. The county seat is Ortonville. In 1998, Big Stone was the seventh smallest county in the state and had a per capita personal income of $20,627, which ranked sixty-fourth in the state. The largest industries in 1998 were state and local government, services, and construction. The fastest growing industry was wholesale trade, which increased over 9.5% between 1997 and 1998. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 3.8%.

Positives: Lower than average percentage of children born at low birth weight, school transfers, and substantiated reports of abuse and neglect.

Concerns: Higher than average percentage of children living in poverty and receiving free/reduced-price school lunches.

Trends to Watch: Decrease in percentage of children receiving food stamps.

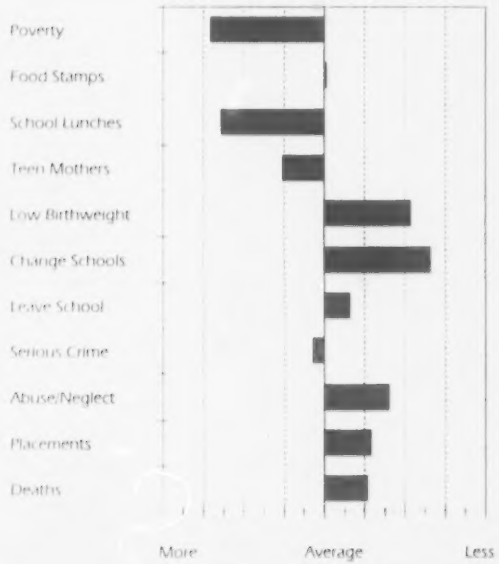


Demographics

Estimated population, 1999	5,571
Estimated number of children, 1999	1,395
Estimated % of children, 1999	25.0%
Estimated number of children, 1991	1,620
% change in number of children, 1991-99	-13.9%
Projected population, 2010	4,990
Projected number of children, 2010	1,040

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Big Stone County



Compared to the Average County 1999

(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	324	20%	247	17%±4	309	21.9±6	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			164	11%	105	8%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	603	46%	652	46%	572	45%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	1		0		1		1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	3	4%	2	4%	2	4%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			63	4%	69	5%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			6	6%	9	8%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	12	17	20	28	13	19	15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	13	8	8	5	6		11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	9		17	11	13	9	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0		0		0		84	1.5

(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

Blue Earth

Blue Earth County, located in south central Minnesota, is the fifteenth largest county in Minnesota. The county seat is Mankato. During the summer months, the county's population includes migrant farm workers and their children. The county's 1998 per capita personal income of $25,790 ranked twelfth among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in Blue Earth County in 1997 were services, state and local government, and retail trade. The fastest growing industry was construction, which increased almost 16% between 1997 and 1998. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 2.3%.

Positives: Close to average county for many indicators of child well-being.

Concerns: Higher than average percentage of children born at low birth weight, not graduating on time, and arrest rate for serious crime.

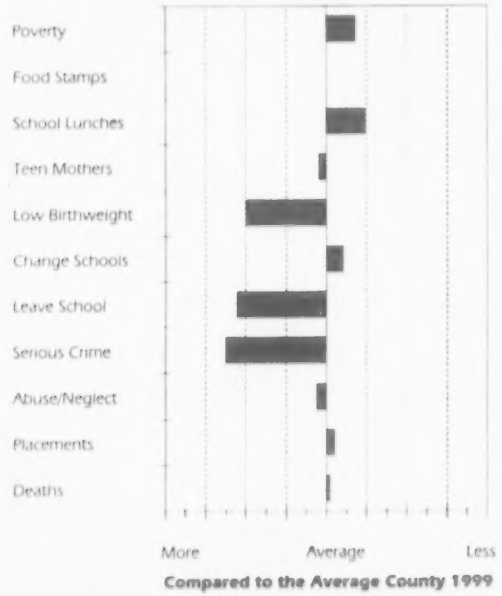
Trends to Watch: Increase in percentage of children not graduating on time.

Demographics

Estimated population, 1999	53,874
Estimated number of children, 1999	12,131
Estimated % of children, 1999	22.5%
Estimated number of children, 1991	12,730
% change in number of children, 1991-99	-4.7%
Projected population, 2010	56,650
Projected number of children, 2010	14,070

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Blue Earth County



Compared to the Average County 1999

(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	1,611	13%	1,529	12%±3	1,601	12.9±3	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			1,428	11%	926	8%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	2,093	22%	2,573	24%	2,507	25%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	14		13	15	18	15	1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	19	3%	45	7%	52	8%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			1,085	10%	1,035	10%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			85	12%	152	19%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	264	49	269	46	201	34	15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	188	15	249	20	97	8	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	141	11	185	15	173	14	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	1		1		1		84	1.5

(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

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Brown

Demographics

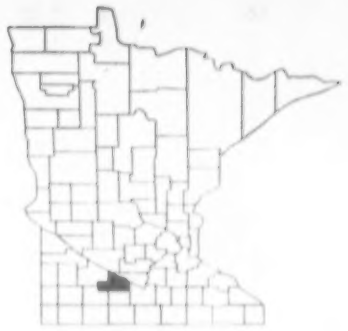
Estimated population, 1999 26,903
Estimated number of children, 1999 7,057
Estimated % of children, 1999 ..... 26.2%
Estimated number of children, 1991 7,453
% change in number of children, 1991-99 ..... -5.3%
Projected population, 2010 27,710
Projected number of children, 2010 6,620
(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Brown County

Compared to the Average County 1999
(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

.92

Brown County is a mid-size county located along the Minnesota River in the southwestern portion of the state. The county seat is New Ulm. In 1999-00, about 3.2% of students in the county had limited English proficiency, compared to less than 1% in 1991-92. Brown County had a 1998 per capita personal income of $23,466, which ranked twenty-sixth in the state. The largest industries were services, non-durable goods manufacturing, and durable goods manufacturing. Construction was the fastest growing industry, increasing by more than 11% since 1997. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 3.6%.



Positives: Lower than average percentage of low-income children, low birth weight babies, children not graduating on time, and child deaths.

Concerns: None based on these indicators.

Trends to Watch: Increase in out-of-home placements.

	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	753	10%	632	8%±2	734	10±3	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			584	8%	352	5%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	909	21%	1,218	26%	973	23%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	8		9	13	6	11	1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	23	7%	20	6%	12	4%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			440	10%	384	9%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			13	4%	10	3%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	62	19	108	31	38	11	15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	32	4	41	6	61	9	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	63	8	69	9	82	12	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	2		0		2		84	1.5

(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

93

Carlton

Carlton County is a moderately large county located in northwestern Minnesota on the shore of Lake Superior. The county seat is Carlton. It includes part of the Fond du Lac Indian Reservation. In 1998, Carlton had a per capita personal income of $20,948, which ranked sixty-second among Minnesota counties. State and local government, non-durable goods manufacturing, and services were the largest industries. The fastest growing industry was state and local government, which increased almost 17% between 1997 and 1998. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 4.2%.

Positives: Close to the average county for most indicators of child well-being.

Concerns: Higher than average percentage of children born at low birth weight and arrest rate for serious crime.

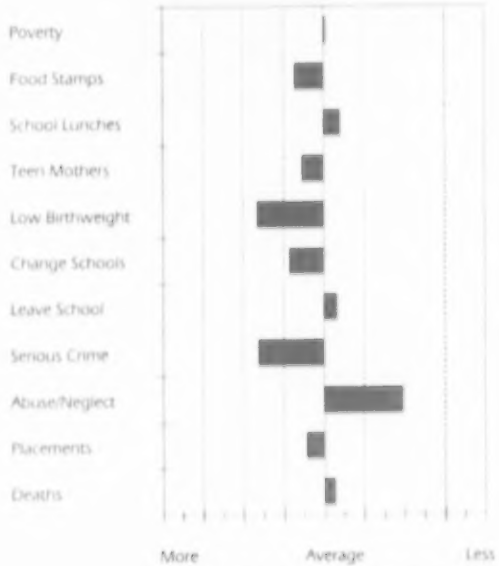
Trends to Watch: Decrease in number of children in out-of-home placements.

Demographics

Estimated population, 1999	31,492
Estimated number of children, 1999	8,522
Estimated % of children, 1999	27.06%
Estimated number of children, 1991	8,324
% change in number of children, 1991-99	2.38%
Projected population, 2010	31,020
Projected number of children, 2010	7,400

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Carlton County



Compared to the Average County 1999

(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

94

	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	1,270	15%	1,127	13%±3	1,250	14.6±4	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			1,008	12%	789	9%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	1,701	26%	1,848	28%	1,825	28%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	9		10	18	13	16	1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	10	3%	12	4%	25	7%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			757	12%	845	13%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			38	9%	48	9%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	168	43	98	23	126	28	15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	34	4	27	3	31	4	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	134	16	170	20	149	17	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	3		0		1		84	1.5

(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

95

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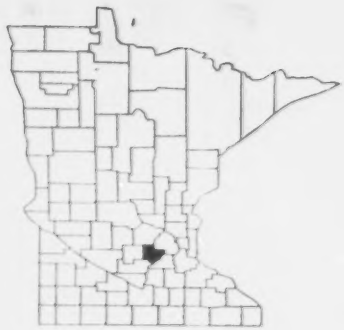
Carver

Carver County, the eleventh largest county in the state, is located on the western edge of the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Statistical Area. The county seat is Chaska. In 1999-00, about 2.5% of students in the county had limited English proficiency, compared to almost none in 1991-92. In 1998, Carver had the third highest per capita personal income in the state: $31,775. The largest industries in 1998 were durable goods manufacturing, services, and non-durable goods manufacturing. Construction was the fastest growing, increasing by almost 16% from 1997 to 1998. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 2.2%.

Positives: Lower than average percentage of low-income children, teen birth rate, children born at low birth weight.

Concerns: Higher than average rate of arrests for serious crime.

Trends to Watch: Increase in number of children reported as abused and neglected, and number in out-of-home placements.

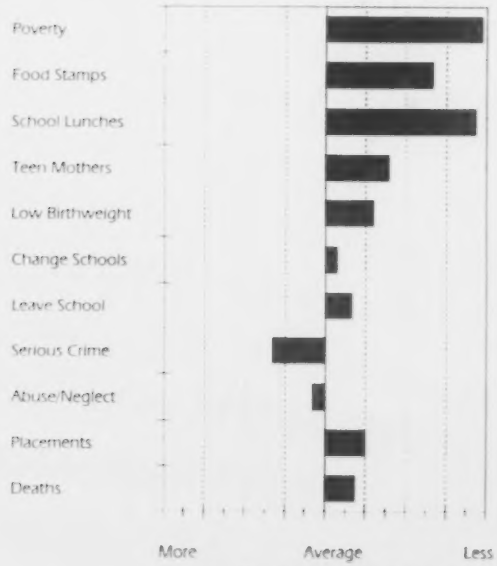


Demographics

Estimated population, 1999	67,023
Estimated number of children, 1999	20,106
Estimated % of children, 1999	30.0%
Estimated number of children, 1991	15,285
% change in number of children, 1991-99	31.5%
Projected population, 2010	80,460
Projected number of children, 2010	22,190

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Carver County



Compared to the Average County 1999

(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	744	5%	778	4%±1	980	4.9±1	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			552	3%	302	2%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	840	11%	1,086	11%	1,098	9%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	14		12	9	8	9	1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	33	4%	58	6%	48	4%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			1,018	10%	1,130	10%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			34	6%	57	8%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	130	23	185	25	222	26	15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	56	4	90	5	163	8	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	114	7	199	13	206	10	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	3		3		2		84	1.5

(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

96

97

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Cass

Cass County is a mid-size county located in north central Minnesota. The county seat is Walker. Part of the Leech Lake Indian Reservation is within the county's borders. Cass County's 1998 per capita personal income of $19,126 was the ninth lowest in the state. The largest industries in the county in 1998 were services, state and local government, and retail trade. The fastest growing industry was state and local government, which increased by just over 9% between 1997 and 1998. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 6%.

Positives: Close to average percentage of children born at low birth weight and of arrest rate for serious crimes.

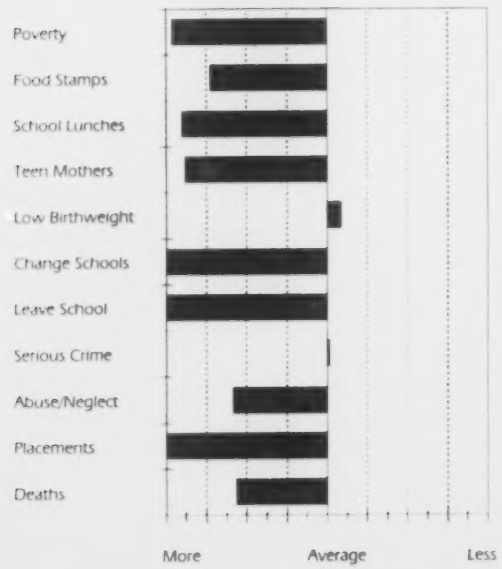
Concerns: Higher than average percentage of low-income children, teen birth rate, school transfers, children not graduating on time, out-of-home placements, and violent deaths.

Trends to Watch: Increase in out-of-home placements, decrease in teen birth rate.

Demographics

Estimated population, 1999 27,042
Estimated number of children, 1999 7,319
Estimated % of children, 1999 ..... 27.1%
Estimated number of children, 1991 6,099
% change in number of children, 1991-99 ..... 20.0%
Projected population, 2010 27,050
Projected number of children, 2010 6,290
(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Cass County



Compared to the Average County 1999

(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

98

	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	2,409	40%	1,509	22%±5	1,777	24.5±7	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			1,358	20%	1,048	14%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	1,870	45%	2,384	52%	2,489	51%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	16		16	34	21	26	1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	19	6%	15	6%	16	5%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			901	20%	1,023	21%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			72	24%	81	27%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	34	13	34	11	58	17	15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	90	15	79	12	89	12	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	190	31	223	37	269	37	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	4		1		3		84	1.5

(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

99

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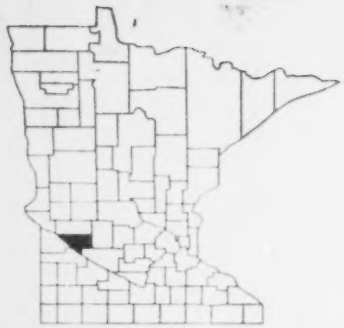
Chippewa

Chippewa County is a moderately small county located in west central Minnesota along the Minnesota River. The county seat is Montevideo. During the summer months, the county's population includes migrant farm workers and their children. In 1998, Chippewa had a per capita personal income of $23,998, which was twenty-second among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in 1998 were durable goods manufacturing, construction, and services. Farming was the fastest growing industry between 1997 and 1998. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 5%.



Positives: Fewer than average children born at low birth weight, not graduating on time, arrests for serious crimes, and out-of-home placements.

Concerns: None based on these indicators.

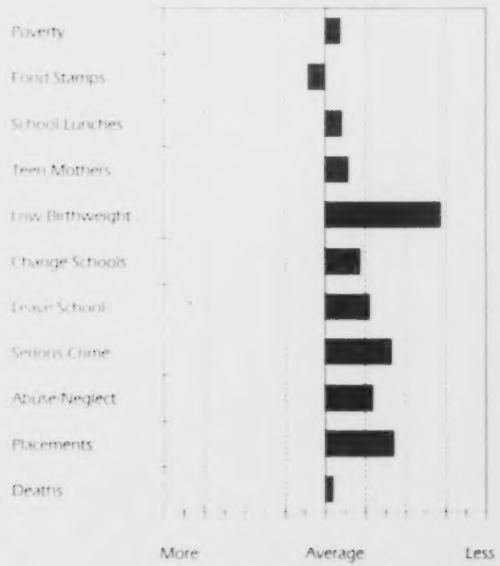
Trends to Watch: Decrease in percentage of children receiving food stamps.

Demographics

Estimated population, 1999	13,028
Estimated number of children, 1999	3,489
Estimated % of children, 1999	26.8%
Estimated number of children, 1991	3,622
% change in number of children, 1991-99	-3.7%
Projected population, 2010	11,710
Projected number of children, 2010	2,690

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Chippewa County



Compared to the Average County 1999

(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

100

	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	712	20%	479	14%±3	493	13.8±4	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)	0	0%	635	18%	300	9%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	703	28%	786	28%	745	28%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	0		4	14	3	12	1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	5	3%	4	3%	4	3%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			236	8%	239	9%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			5	3%	12	7%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	42	28	62	38	9		15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	41	11	30	9	18	5	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	29	8	38	11	23	7	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	1		0		2		84	1.5

(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

101

Chisago

Chisago County, a moderately large county, is located in west central Minnesota on the Wisconsin border and is part of the northern edge of the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Statistical Area. The county seat is Center City. In 1998, Chisago had a per capita personal income of $25,357, which was fifteenth among Minnesota counties. The largest industries were services, state and local government, and construction. Services was the fastest growing industry, increasing by 20% between 1997 and 1998. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 3.3%.

Positives: Lower than average percentage of children in low-income families, and lower arrest rate for serious crime.

Concerns: Higher than average percentage of children not graduating on time.

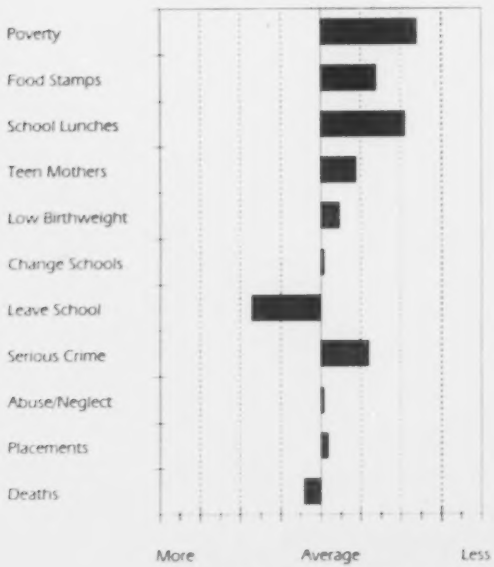
Trends to Watch: Decrease in percentage of children not graduating on time.

Demographics

Estimated population, 1999	42,302
Estimated number of children, 1999	13,019
Estimated % of children, 1999	30.8%
Estimated number of children, 1991	9,777
% change in number of children, 1991-99	33.2%
Projected population, 2010	46,290
Projected number of children, 2010	13,590

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Chisago County



Compared to the Average County 1999

(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	862	9%	906	8%±2	1,115	8.7±2	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			872	8%	581	4%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	1,226	19%	1,538	21%	1,512	19%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	10		13	16	11	11	1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	21	4%	26	5%	32	5%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			861	12%	863	11%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			82	20%	84	17%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	123	28	95	17	57	9	15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	65	7	68	6	96	7	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	137	14	195	20	187	14	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	2		1		2		84	1.5

(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

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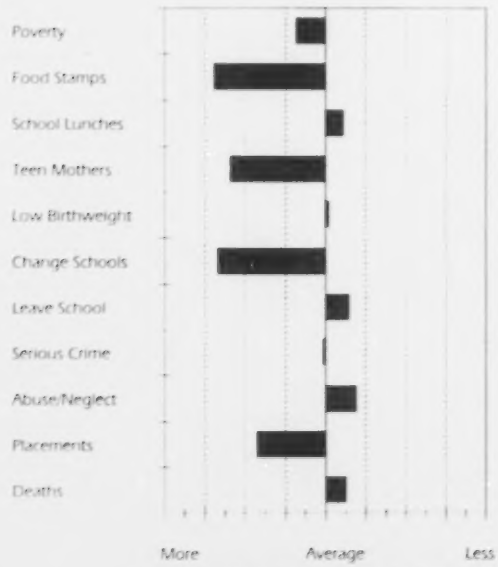
Clay

Demographics

Estimated population, 1999	51,717
Estimated number of children, 1999	12,885
Estimated % of children, 1999	24.9%
Estimated number of children, 1991	13,302
% change in number of children, 1991-99	-3.1%
Projected population, 2010	54,850
Projected number of children, 2010	15,130

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Clay County



Compared to the Average County 1999

(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

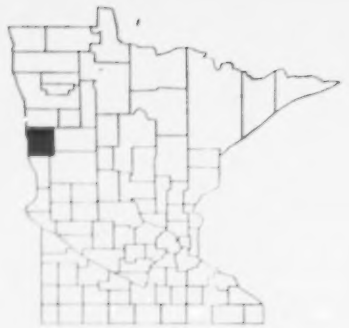
104

Clay County, a moderately large county in the Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Statistical Area, is located in northwestern Minnesota on the North Dakota border. The county seat is Moorhead. During the summer months, the county's population includes migrant farm workers and their children. In 1999-00, over 4% of students in the county had limited English proficiency, compared to just over 2% in 1991-92. In 1998, the per capita personal income was $20,387, sixty-sixth among Minnesota counties. The largest industries were state and local government, services, and retail trade. Wholesale trade was the fastest growing, increasing by almost 13% from 1997 to 1998. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 2.5%.

Positives: Close to the average county for many indicators of child well-being.

Concerns: Higher than average percentage of children receiving food stamps, teen birth rate, school transfers, and out-of-home placements.

Trends to Watch: Decrease in percentage of children receiving food stamps, increase in out-of-home placements.



	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	2,417	19%	2,135	16%±4	2,165	16.6±4	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			3,590	27%	1,805	14%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	2490	28%	2,640	28%	2,544	28%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	23		34	30	18	22	1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	30	5%	34	5%	36	6%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			1,740	18%	1,571	17%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			35	7%	51	8%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	180	33	251	41	107	17	15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	101	8	141	11	77	6	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	214	16	269	20	308	24	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	2		10		2		84	1.5

(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

105

Clearwater

Clearwater County, in northwestern Minnesota, is the thirteenth smallest county in the state. The county seat is Bagley. Portions of Red Lake and White Earth Indian Reservations are located within the county. The county's 1998 per capita personal income of $17,262 was the third lowest in Minnesota. State and local government, durable goods manufacturing, and services were the county's largest industries in 1998. The fastest growing industry was durable goods manufacturing, which increased 21.5% since 1997. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 11.2%.

Positives: Lower than average arrest rate for serious crimes.

Concerns: Higher than average percentage of low-income children, children born at low birth weight, and child deaths.

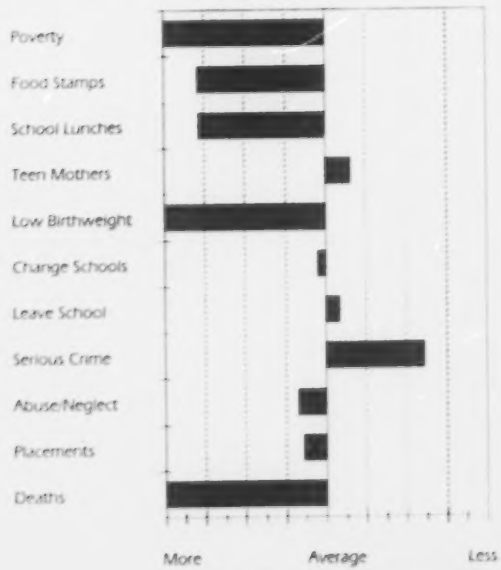
Trends to Watch: Decrease in percentage of children receiving food stamps.

Demographics

Estimated population, 1999	8,146
Estimated number of children, 1999	2,368
Estimated % of children, 1999	29.1%
Estimated number of children, 1991	2,408
% change in number of children, 1991-99	-1.6%
Projected population, 2010	8,170
Projected number of children, 2010	2,260

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Clearwater County



Compared to the Average County 1999

(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	925	38%	567	23%±5	689	28±7	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			463	19%	354	15%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	822	45%	858	46%	836	48%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	4		4	24	4		1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	5	4%	7	7%	12	13%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			189	10%	204	11%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			9	8%	12	9%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	10	9	4		0		15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	13	5	7		21	9	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	32	13	56	23	43	18	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	1		3		0		84	1.5

(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

Cook

Cook County is the fourth smallest county in Minnesota. The county seat is Grand Marais. It is located in the Arrowhead Region of northeastern Minnesota bordering Canada and Lake Superior. The Grand Portage Indian Reservation is located in the county. Its per capita personal income of $25,272 in 1998 was the sixteenth highest in Minnesota. The largest industries in 1998 were services, state and local government, and retail trade. Federal civilian government was the fastest growing industry, increasing by more than 9% from 1997. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 3.8%.

Positives: Lower than average percentage of children in low-income families, arrest rate for serious crime, and substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect.

Concerns: Higher than average percentages of children born at low birth weight, school transfers and children not graduating on time.

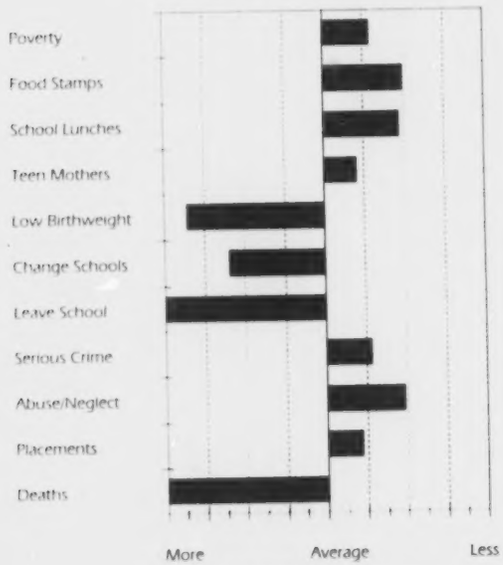
Trends to Watch: Increase in school transfers.

Demographics

Estimated population, 1999	4,772
Estimated number of children, 1999	1,104
Estimated % of children, 1999	23.1%
Estimated number of children, 1991	962
% change in number of children, 1991-99	14.7%
Projected population, 2010	4,400
Projected number of children, 2010	1,070

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Cook County



Compared to the Average County 1999

(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

108

	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	134	15%	109	10%±2	131	11.8±3	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			46	4%	34	3%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	100	15%	97	13%	145	20%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	0		3		2		1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	1	2%	4	7%	4	9%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			95	13%	122	16%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			7	13%	14	25%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	18	43	14	27	5		15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	15	16	3		4		11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	12	12	9		12	11	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0		1		0		84	1.5

(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

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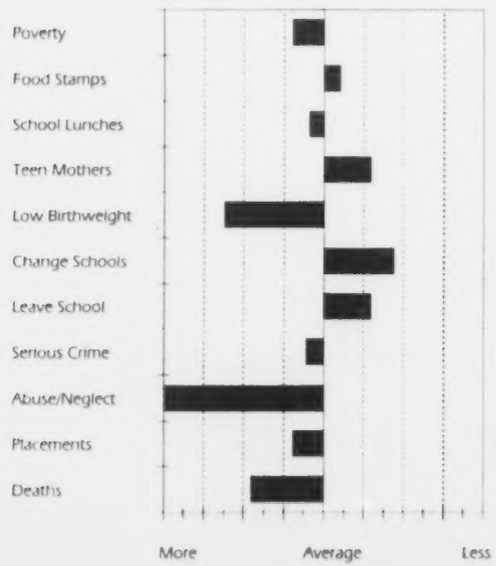
Cottonwood

Demographics

Estimated population, 1999 11,908
Estimated number of children, 1999 3,029
Estimated % of children, 1999 ..... 25.4%
Estimated number of children, 1991 3,273
% change in number of children, 1991-99 ..... -7.5%
Projected population, 2010 11,650
Projected number of children, 2010 2,760
(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Cottonwood County



Compared to the Average County 1999
(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

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Cottonwood County is a moderately small county located in southwestern Minnesota. The county seat is Windom. In 1999-00, almost 2% of students in the county had limited English proficiency, compared to just over 1% in 1991-92. Cottonwood County's 1998 per capita personal income of $22,595 ranked thirty-fifth in the state. The largest industries in 1998 were services, farming, and durable goods manufacturing. The fastest growing industry was durable goods manufacturing, which increased over 18% between 1997 and 1998. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 4.5%.

Positives: Lower than average for teen birth rate, school transfers, and children not graduating on time.

Concerns: Higher than average percentage of children born at low birth weight, substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect, and child deaths.

Trends to Watch: Increase in percentage of children not graduating on time.

	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	498	15%	427	13%±3	518	16.7±4	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			330	10%	203	7%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	662	29%	755	32%	627	33%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	3		2	16	2	10	1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	5	4%	1	1%	10	8%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			199	8%	141	7%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			1	1%	10	6%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	38	25	15	9	31	20	15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	57	17	65	20	62	20	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	45	14	81	25	58	19	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0		0		1		84	1.5

(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

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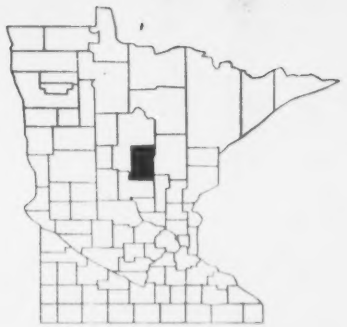
Crow Wing

Crow Wing County is located in the north central portion of Minnesota and is the sixteenth largest county in Minnesota. The county seat is Brainerd. In 1998, Crow Wing County had a per capita personal income of $22,581, ranking thirty-sixth among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in the county in 1998 were services, state and local government, and retail trade. Finances, insurance and real estate increased by almost 20% from 1997 to 1998, making it the fastest growing industry. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 4.4%.

Positives: Close to average county on many indicators of child well-being.

Concerns: Higher than average percentage of children not graduating on time.

Trends to Watch: Decreases in teen birth rate, percentage of children receiving food stamps.

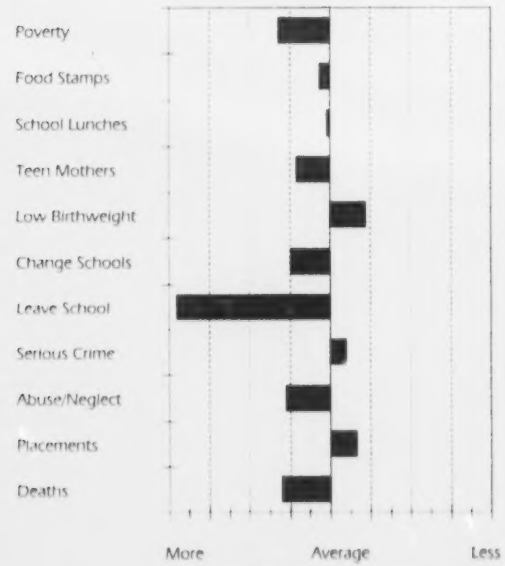


Demographics

Estimated population, 1999	52,608
Estimated number of children, 1999	13,874
Estimated % of children, 1999	26.4%
Estimated number of children, 1991	12,332
% change in number of children, 1991-99	12.5%
Projected population, 2010	56,700
Projected number of children, 2010	13,740

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Crow Wing County



Compared to the Average County 1999

(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	2,592	22%	2,178	16%±4	2,491	18±5	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			2,047	15%	1,141	8%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	2,732	30%	3,034	30%	3,127	31%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	21		31	29	27	17	1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	29	5%	26	4%	33	5%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			1,659	16%	1,335	13%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			220	31%	179	24%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	149	29	153	25	92	14	15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	206	17	182	14	135	10	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	175	14	204	17	166	12	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	5		0		2		84	1.5

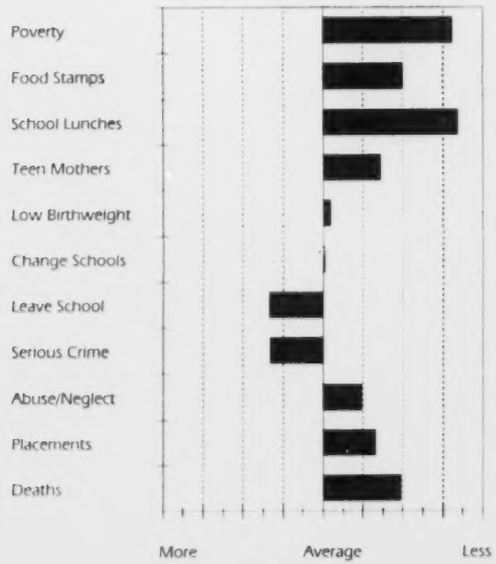
(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

Dakota

Demographics

Estimated population, 1999 349,131
Estimated number of children, 1999 102,194
Estimated % of children, 1999 ..... 29.3%
Estimated number of children, 1991 87,463
% change in number of children, 1991-99 ..... 16.8%
Projected population, 2010 407,520
Projected number of children, 2010 107,540
(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Dakota County



Compared to the Average County 1999
(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

Dakota County is the third largest county in the state and is located in the southeastern portion of the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Statistical Area. The county seat is Hastings. In 1999-00, almost 2% of students in the county had limited English proficiency, compared to less than 1% in 1991-92. In 1998, it had a per capita personal income of $31,717, the fourth highest in Minnesota. The largest industries in 1998 were services, non-durable goods manufacturing, and wholesale trade. Finance, insurance and real estate was the fastest growing industry, increasing by almost 16% from 1997 to 1998. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 1.9%.

Positives: Lower than average percentage of low-income children, births to teens, out-of-home placements, and child deaths.

Concerns: Higher than average percentage of children not graduating on time and arrest rate for serious crime.

Trends to Watch: Decrease in teen birth rate.

	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	4,479	5%	5,521	6%±1	6,701	6.6±2	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			5,618	6%	3,117	3%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	5,600	10%	7,786	12%	8,221	11%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	66		94	14	85	9	1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	221	4%	287	6%	295	5%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			7,460	11%	7,640	11%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			565	15%	646	15%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	1,092	34	1,241	32	1,132	26	15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	585	7	561	6	571	6	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	805	9	830	10	880	9	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	5		14		4		84	1.5

(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

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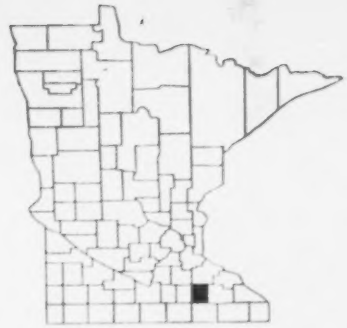
Dodge

Dodge County is a mid-size county located in southeastern Minnesota. The county seat is Mantorville. During the summer months, the county's population includes migrant farm workers and their children. Dodge County's per capita personal income was $23,148 in 1998, which ranked the county thirtieth among all Minnesota counties. The largest industries in Dodge County in 1998 were durable goods manufacturing, state and local government, and services. Farming was the county's fastest growing industry in 1998, increasing by just over 30% since 1997. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 3.2%.



Positives: Lower than average percentage of low-income children, children not graduating on time, and arrest rate for serious crime.

Concerns: Higher than average rate of substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect.

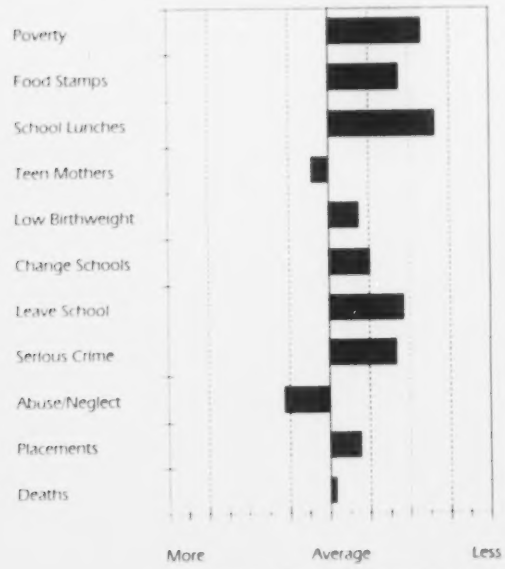
Trends to Watch: Decrease in school transfers.

Demographics

Estimated population, 1999	17,396
Estimated number of children, 1999	5,445
Estimated % of children, 1999	31.3%
Estimated number of children, 1991	5,113
% change in number of children, 1991-99	6.5%
Projected population, 2010	17,530
Projected number of children, 2010	4,670

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Dodge County



Compared to the Average County 1999

(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	522	10%	423	8%±2	489	8.9±2	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			440	8%	198	4%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	964	25%	659	17%	616	16%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	8		5	11	8	16	1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	14	5%	16	7%	12	5%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			468	12%	345	9%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			7	0	10	4%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	17	8	88	39	13	5	15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	21	4	26	5	53	10	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	40	8	64	13	62	11	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	3		0		0		84	1.5

(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

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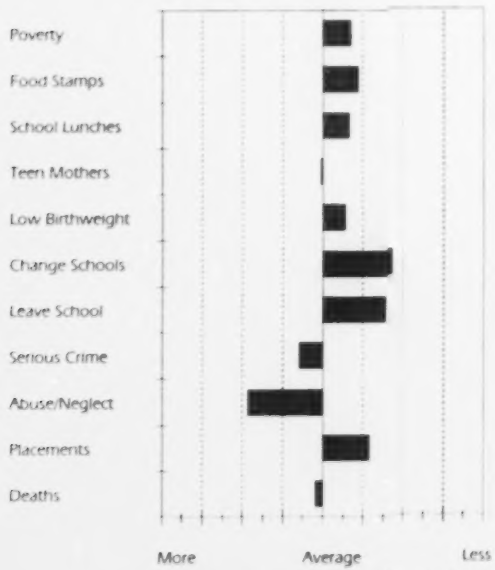
Douglas

Demographics

Estimated population, 1999	31,274
Estimated number of children, 1999	8,266
Estimated % of children, 1999	26.4%
Estimated number of children, 1991	7,928
% change in number of children, 1991-99	4.3%
Projected population, 2010	32,810
Projected number of children, 2010	8,130

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Douglas County



Compared to the Average County 1999

(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

Douglas County is moderately large county located in the west central part of the state. The county seat is Alexandria. Douglas County had a 1998 per capita personal income of $22,860, which ranked thirty-second among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in 1998 were services, durable goods manufacturing, and state and local government. The fastest growing industry since 1997 was construction, which increased almost 20%. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 3.4%.

Positives: Lower than average number of school transfers, percentage of children not graduating on time and out-of-home placements.

Concerns: Higher than average rate of substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect.

Trends to Watch: Increase in out-of-home placements.

	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	1,229	16%	937	11%±2	1,095	13±3	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			632	8%	468	6%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	1,498	26%	1,515	27%	1,518	27%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	6		4	14	14	14	1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	21	6%	16	5%	18	5%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			390	7%	400	7%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			38	10%	19	5%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	107	32	138	37	82	21	15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	155	20	86	11	93	11	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	27	3	27	3	77	9	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0		0		4		84	1.5

(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

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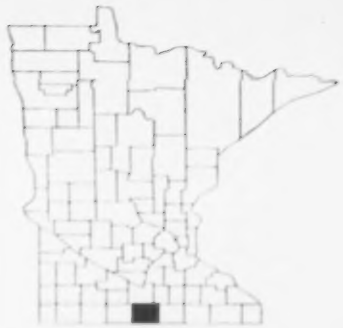
Faribault

Faribault County is a mid-size county located in southern Minnesota on the Iowa border. The county seat is Blue Earth. The per capita personal income of Faribault County in 1998 was $21,697, which ranked fifty-second among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in 1998 were services, state and local government, and durable goods manufacturing. The fastest growing industry was construction, which increased almost 11% between 1997 and 1998. The county's 1998 unemployment rate was 3.9%.

Positives: Lower than average percentage of children not graduating on time and rate of arrests for serious crime.

Concerns: Higher than average substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect.

Trends to Watch: Increase in out-of-home placements.

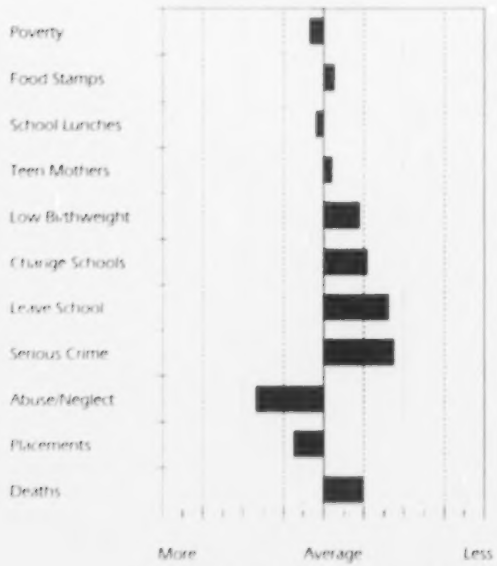


Demographics

Estimated population, 1999	16,247
Estimated number of children, 1999	4,167
Estimated % of children, 1999	25.6%
Estimated number of children, 1991	4,580
% change in number of children, 1991-99	-9.0%
Projected population, 2010	14,680
Projected number of children, 2010	3,490

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Faribault County



Compared to the Average County 1999

(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	762	17%	601	14%±3	669	15.6±4	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			456	11%	295	7%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	1012	33%	802	27%	829	32%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	4		8	18	2	13	1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	13	7%	8	5%	7	5%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			307	11%	234	9%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			15	8%	11	5%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	37	19	31	15	10	5	15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	66	14	69	16	107 (b)	11	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	52	11	68	15	187 (b)	19	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	1		1		0		84	1.5

(a) mothers under 18 (b) for Faribault and Martin counties combined * Rates not given for less than 10 events

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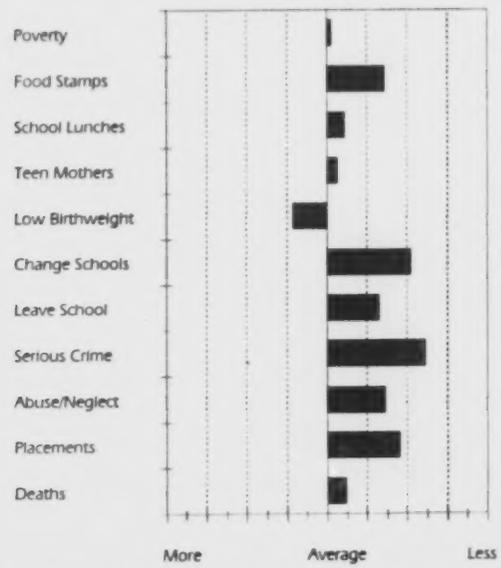
Fillmore

Demographics

Estimated population, 1999 20,688
Estimated number of children, 1999 5,630
Estimated % of children, 1999 ..... 27.2%
Estimated number of children, 1991 5,745
% change in number of children, 1991-99 ..... -2.0%
Projected population, 2010 19,720
Projected number of children, 2010 4,770
(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Fillmore County



Compared to the Average County 1999
(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

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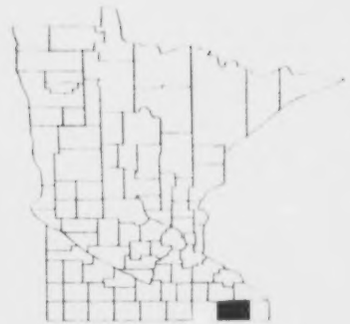
Fillmore County is a mid-size county located along the Iowa border in southeastern Minnesota. The county seat is Preston. In 1998, Fillmore County had a per capita personal income of $21,107, which ranked fifty-ninth among Minnesota counties. Fillmore County's largest industries were services, and state and local government, and durable goods manufacturing. The industry experiencing the largest growth between 1997 and 1998 was farming, which increased by over 18%. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 3.3%.

Positives: Lower than average percentage of children receiving food stamps, school transfers, not graduating on time, arrests for serious crime, substantiated reports of abuse and neglect, and out-of-home placements.

Concerns: None based on these indicators.

Trends to Watch: Decrease in percentage of children receiving food stamps.



	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	1,009	17%	830	14%±3	842	14.5±4	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			538	9%	246	4%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	976	27%	979	28%	939	28%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	9		6	17	7	13	1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	9	3%	9	4%	15	6%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			205	6%	220	6%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			6	3%	16	6%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	0		11	4	0		15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	30	5	36	6	26	5	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	29	5	28	5	34	6	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0		2		1		84	1.5

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(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

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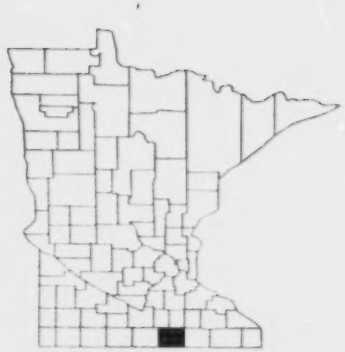
Freeborn

Freeborn County is located in south central Minnesota along the Iowa border. The county seat is Albert Lea. It is the twenty-eighth largest county in the state. Freeborn County's per capita personal income was $21,873, which ranked forty-sixth among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in 1998 were services, durable goods manufacturing, and non-durable goods manufacturing. Non-durable goods manufacturing was the fastest growing industry, which increased over 12% between 1997 and 1998. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 2.6%.

Positives: Close to the average county for most measures of child well-being.

Concerns: Higher than average percentage of children born at low birth weight, not graduating on time, and arrests for serious crime.

Trends to Watch: Decrease in teen birth rate.

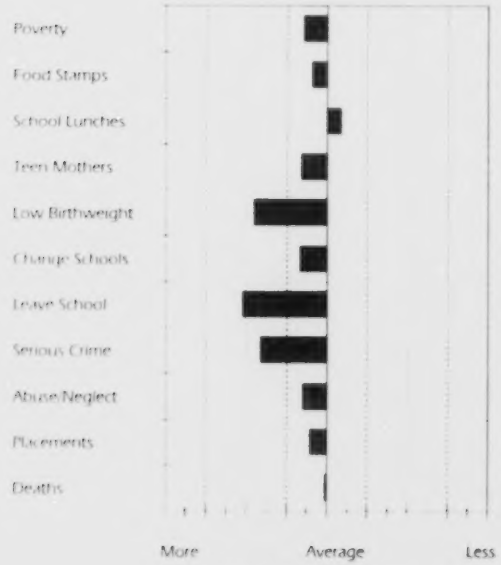


Demographics

Estimated population, 1999	31,503
Estimated number of children, 1999	7,815
Estimated % of children, 1999	24.8%
Estimated number of children, 1991	8,912
% change in number of children, 1991-99	-12.3%
Projected population, 2005	30,280
Projected number of children, 2005	6,600

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Freeborn County



Compared to the Average County 1999

(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	1,273	15%	1,117	14%±3	1,290	16.2±4	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			1,100	13%	662	8%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	1,210	21%	1,477	28%	1,409	29%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	15		17	29	14	16	1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	32	8%	16	5%	29	7%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			617	12%	638	13%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			75	18%	72	18%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	180	50	286	77	105	28	15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	101	11	73	9	68	9	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	110	12	123	14	136	17	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	2		3		1		84	1.5

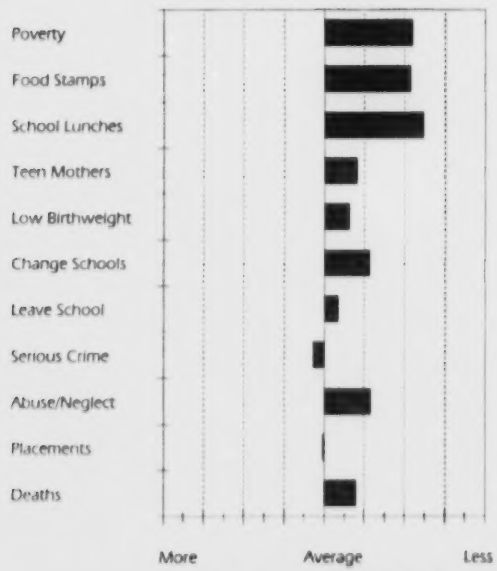
(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

Goodhue

Demographics

Estimated population, 1999 43,367
Estimated number of children, 1999 12,000
Estimated % of children, 1999 ..... 27.7%
Estimated number of children, 1991 11,614
% change in number of children, 1991-99 ..... 3.3%
Projected population, 2005 44,490
Projected number of children, 2005 10,930
(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Goodhue County



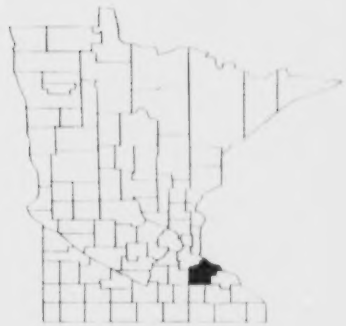
Compared to the Average County 1999
(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

Goodhue County is located in southeastern Minnesota along the Mississippi River and the Wisconsin border. The county seat is Red Wing. It's the twentieth largest county in Minnesota. The Prairie Island Indian Reservation (http://www.indians.state.mn.us/ prairie.html) lies within its borders. Goodhue County had a 1998 per capita personal income of $26,774, the ninth highest in the state. The largest industries in the county were services, non-durable goods manufacturing, and state and local government. The fastest growing industry was services, increasing 12% from 1997 to 1998. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 2.9%.

Positives: Lower than average percentage of low-income children, school transfers, and substantiated reports of abuse and neglect.

Concerns: None based on these indicators.

Trends to Watch: Increase in out-of-home placements.



	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	1,052	9%	875	7%±2	1,115	9.2±2	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			596	5%	328	3%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	1,169	14%	1,643	18%	1,295	17%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	10		10	12	8	11	1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	21	4%	37	8%	25	5%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			906	10%	678	9%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			50	8%	63	9%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	160	34	131	25	104	19	15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	85	7	75	6	62	5	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	133	11	151	13	186	16	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	3		1		4		84	1.5

(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

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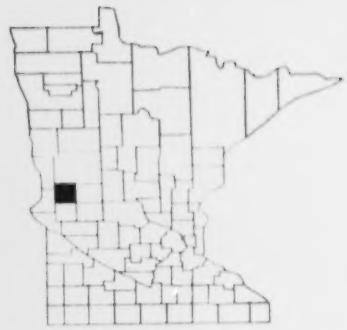
Grant

Grant County is the eighth smallest county in the state and is located in west central Minnesota. The county seat is Elbow Lake. In 1998, Grant had a per capita personal income of $21,529, which was the fifty-fifth highest among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in the county in 1998 were services, state and local government, and farming. The greatest growth came from farming, which increased by 29.5% between 1997 and 1998. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 5.4%.

Positives: Lower than average teen births, school transfers, not graduating on time, out-of-home placements, and number of child deaths.

Concerns: Higher than average percentage of children born at low birth weight.

Trends to Watch: Decreases in percentage of children receiving food stamps and school transfers.

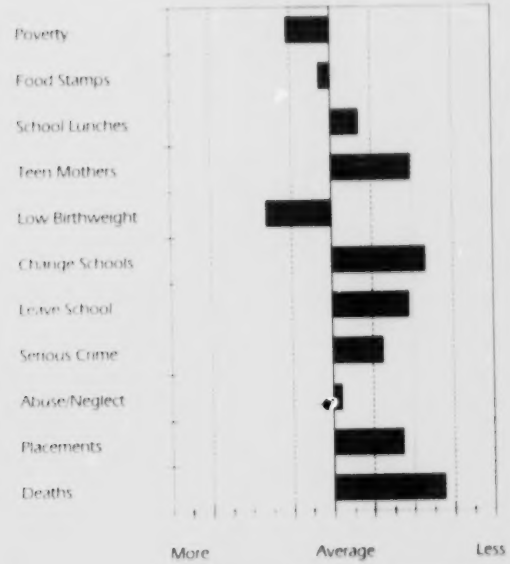


Demographics

Estimated population, 1999	6,077
Estimated number of children, 1999	1,545
Estimated % of children, 1999	25.4%
Estimated number of children, 1991	1,609
% change in number of children, 1991-99	-4.0%
Projected population, 2005	5,560
Projected number of children, 2005	1,300

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Grant County



Compared to the Average County 1999

(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	288	18%	236	15%±3	278	17.5±5	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			234	15%	128	8%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	458	32%	520	32%	396	27%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	0		1		2		1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	1	2%	4	6%	4	7%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			143	9%	92	6%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			2	2%	5	4%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	11	16	17	23	6		15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	2		12	8	11	7	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	9		16	10	10	6	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0		0		0		84	1.5

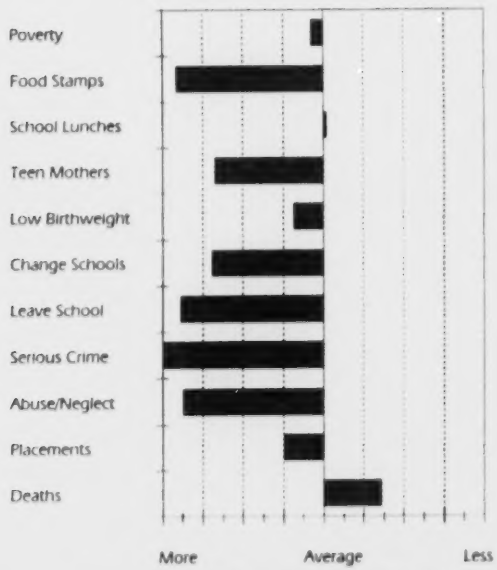
(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

Hennepin

Demographics

Estimated population, 1999 1,064,419
Estimated number of children, 1999 248,799
Estimated % of children, 1999 .....23.4%
Estimated number of children, 1991 246,930
% change in number of children, 1991-99 .....0.8%
Projected population, 2005 106,900
Projected number of children, 2005 241,140
(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Hennepin County



Compared to the Average County 1999
(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

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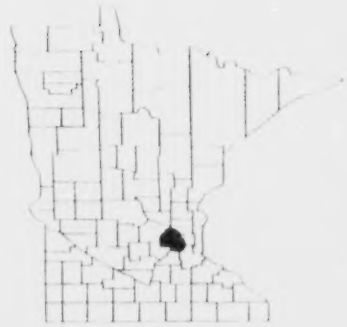
Hennepin County, part of the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Statistical Area, is the largest county in the state. The county seat is Minneapolis. The county is ethnically and racially diverse. In 1999-00, 7.5% of students in the county had limited English proficiency, compared to about 3% in 1991-92. In 1998, it had a per capita personal income of $40,126, the highest in the state. The county's largest industries were services; finance, insurance and real estate; and durable goods manufacturing. Finance, insurance and real estate was the fastest growing industry, increasing by over 15% between 1997 and 1998. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 2.2%.

Positives: Lower than average rate of child deaths.

Concerns: Higher than average percentage of children receiving food stamps, teen births, school transfers, children not graduating on time, substantiated reports of abuse and neglect, and arrests for serious crime.

Trends to Watch: Decreases in out-of-home placements and child deaths.



	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	36,924	15%	35,618	14%±3	38,669	15.5±4	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			45,363	18%	39,917	16%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	32,365	24%	41,821	28%	47,377	30%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	557		568	32	510	23	1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	967	6%	986	6%	1,020	6%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			25,348	17%	26,789	17%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			2,180	25%	2,213	23%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	4,691	53	5,374	55	4,750	46	15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	3,048	12	2,972	12	3,607	14	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	5,813	24	5,457	22	5,001	20	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	35		43		14		84	1.5

(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

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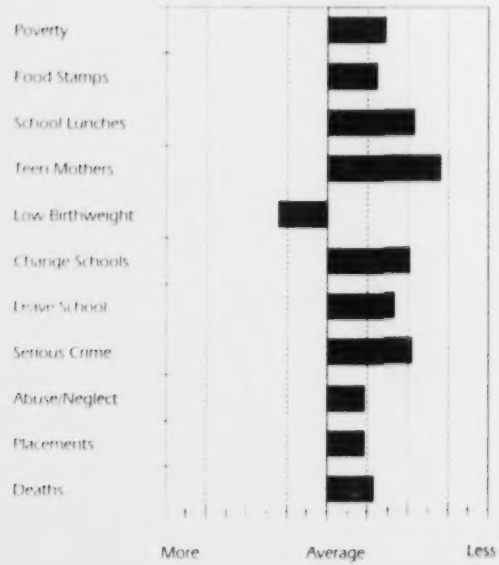
Houston

Demographics

Estimated population, 1999 19,489
Estimated number of children, 1999 5,468
Estimated % of children, 1999 ..... 28.1%
Estimated number of children, 1991 5,325
% change in number of children, 1991-99 ..... 2.7%
Projected population, 2005 19,590
Projected number of children, 2005 4,890
(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Houston County



Compared to the Average County 1999
(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

Houston County is a mid-size county located in the southeastern corner of Minnesota on the Iowa and Wisconsin borders. The county seat is Caledonia. It is considered part of the LaCrosse, Wisconsin, Metropolitan Statistical Area. In 1998, Houston County had a per capita personal income of $24,100, which ranked twenty-first among Minnesota counties. Services, state and local government, and transportation and public utilities comprised the largest industries in 1998. Farming was the fastest growing industry, increasing 24% between 1997 and 1998. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 3.6%.

Positives: Lower than average percentage of children living in low-income families, school transfers, not graduating on time, arrests for serious crimes and child deaths.

Concerns: Higher than average percentage of children born at low birth weight.

Trends to Watch: Increase in out-of-home placements.

	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	612	11%	515	9%±2	614	11.1±3	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			381	7%	263	5%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	727	22%	731	20%	665	18%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	7		6	11	1		1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	5	2%	7	3%	14	7%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			213	6%	235	6%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			15	5%	12	5%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	1		10	4	6		15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	14	3	36	7	31	6	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	24	5	30	6	58	11	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	1		0		1		84	1.5

(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

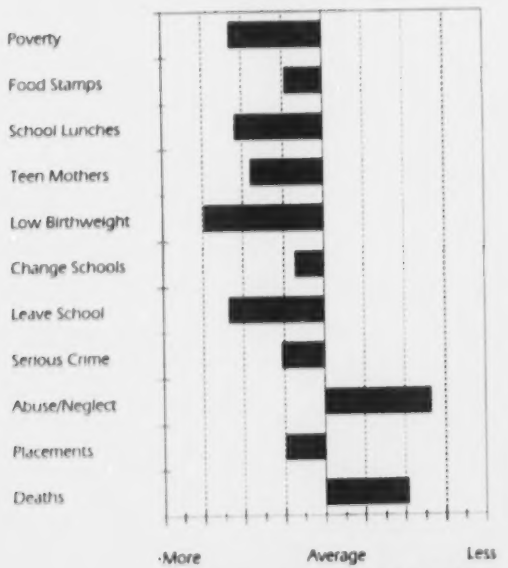
Hubbard

Demographics

Estimated population, 1999	17,031
Estimated number of children, 1999	4,524
Estimated % of children, 1999	26.6%
Estimated number of children, 1991	4,179
% change in number of children, 1991-99	8.2%
Projected population, 2005	18,540
Projected number of children, 2005	4,880

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Hubbard County



Compared to the Average County 1999

(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

Hubbard County is a mid-size county located in the north central portion of the state. The county seat is Park Rapids. Portions of the Leech Lake Reservation are located in the county. In 1998, Hubbard County had a per capita personal income of $19,791, the seventeenth lowest in the state. Its largest industries were services, durable goods manufacturing, and state and local government. Non-durable goods manufacturing was the fastest growing industry, increasing by almost 15% from 1997 to 1998. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 4.9%.

Positives: Lower than average rate of child deaths.

Concerns: Higher than average percentage of children in low-income families, teen births, children born at low birth weight, and children not graduating on time.

Trends to Watch: Increase in percentage of children not graduating on time.

	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	1,213	29%	840	19%±4	943	20.6±5	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			674	15%	443	10%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	1,059	40%	1,258	43%	1,231	43%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	6		5	14	7	20	1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	7	4%	9	5%	15	9%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			363	12%	361	13%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			30	16%	38	19%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	56	31	44	21	54	24	15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	62	15	47	11	10	2	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	89	21	77	18	91	20	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0		2		0		84	1.5

(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

Isanti

Demographics

Estimated population, 1999	30,887
Estimated number of children, 1999	9,589
Estimated % of children, 1999	31.0%
Estimated number of children, 1991	8,324
% change in number of children, 1991-99	15.2%
Projected population, 2005	32,240
Projected number of children, 2005	8,830

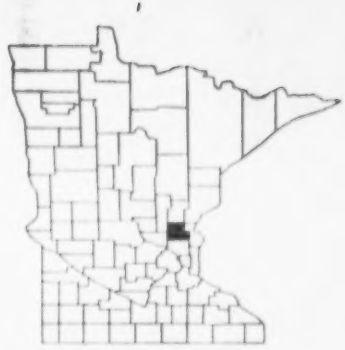
(children defined as under 18)

Isanti County is a mid-size county located in east central Minnesota on the northern edge of the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Statistical Area. The county seat is Cambridge. Isanti County's 1998 per capita personal income of $22,329 ranked thirty-ninth among Minnesota counties. Services, state and local government and durable goods manufacturing were the largest industries in 1998. The fastest growing industry was durable goods manufacturing, which increased by 16.5% from 1997 to 1998. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 3.5%.

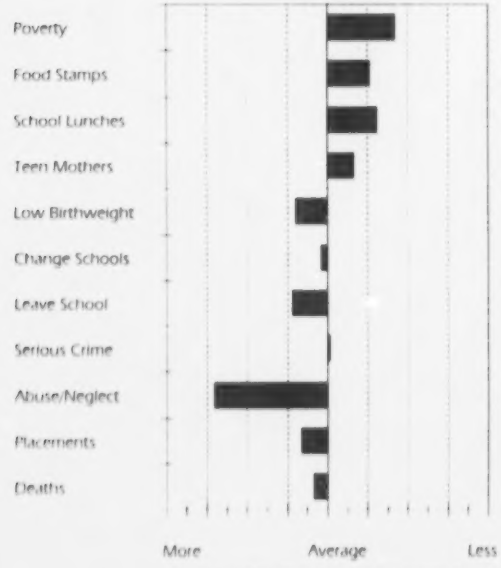
Positives: Lower than average percentage of children in poverty and receiving free/reduced-price school lunch.

Concerns: None based on these indicators.

Trends to Watch: Increase in out-of-home placements.



Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Isanti County



Compared to the Average County 1999

(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	1,034	13%	833	9%±2	989	10.5±3	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			666	8%	501	5%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	1,316	24%	1,580	27%	1,387	24%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	9		11	19	9	12	1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	9	3%	20	6%	24	6%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			667	12%	652	11%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			47	14%	54	14%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	66	19	54	13	76	17	15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	33	4	48	5	126	13	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	121	15	164	20	178	19	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	4		2		0		84	1.5

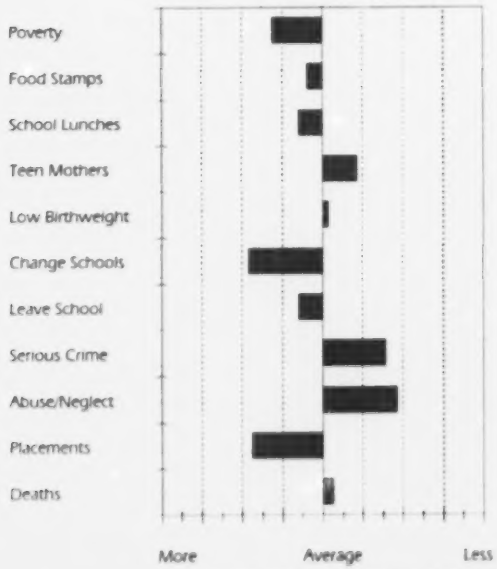
(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

Itasca

Demographics

Estimated population, 1999 44,154
Estimated number of children, 1999 12,043
Estimated % of children, 1999 ..... 27.3%
Estimated number of children, 1991 11,729
% change in number of children, 1991-99 ..... 2.7%
Projected population, 2005 42,920
Projected number of children, 2005 10,300
(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Itasca County



Compared to the Average County 1999
(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

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Itasca County is a moderately large county located in the central section of northern Minnesota. The county seat is Grand Rapids. Part of Leech Lake Indian Reservation is within the county borders. Its per capita personal income of $20,100 was the sixty-eighth among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in 1998 were services, state and local government, and non-durable goods manufacturing. Services was the fastest growing industry, increasing by almost 13% between 1997 and 1998. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 7.2%.

Positives: Lower than average rate of arrests for serious crime.

Concerns: Higher than average percentage of children in poverty, school transfers, substantiated reports of abuse and neglect, and out-of-home placements.

Trends to Watch: Decrease in percentage of children receiving food stamps.

	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	2,794	24%	2,158	18%±4	2,173	17.9±5	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			1,849	15%	1,029	9%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	2,603	32%	2,695	32%	2,668	34%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	22		15	13	20	11	1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	29	6%	20	5%	24	6%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			1,054	13%	1,219	15%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			86	14%	81	13%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	17	3	47	8	38	6	15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	24	2	33	3	46	4	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	206	18	294	25	291	24	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	3		1		3		84	1.5

(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

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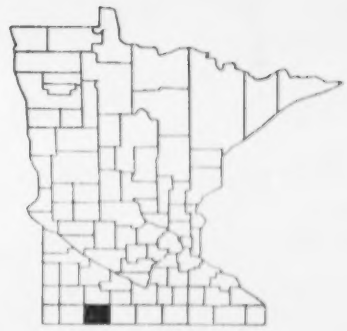
Jackson

Jackson County is a moderately small county located in southwestern Minnesota on the Iowa border. The county seat is Jackson. In 1999-00, about 2% of students in the county had limited English proficiency, compared to about 1% in 1991-92. Jackson County's 1998 per capita personal income of $21,864 ranked forty-seventh in the state. The largest industries in 1997 were durable goods manufacturing, farming, and services. The fastest growing industry was services, which more than doubled from 1997 to 1998. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 3.2%.

Positives: Lower than average number of children receiving food stamps, school transfers, and child deaths.

Concerns: Higher than average number of out-of-home placements.

Trends to Watch: Increase in out-of-home placements.

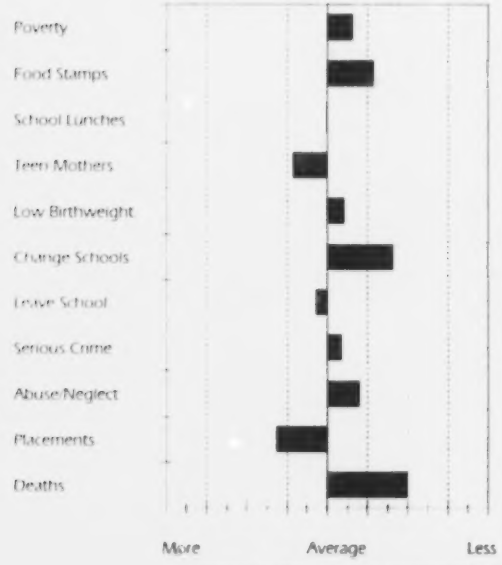


Demographics

Estimated population, 1999	11,378
Estimated number of children, 1999	3,034
Estimated % of children, 1999	26.7%
Estimated number of children, 1991	3,201
% change in number of children, 1991-99	-5.2%
Projected population, 2005	11,050
Projected number of children, 2005	2,750

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Jackson County



Compared to the Average County 1999

(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	735	23%	376	12%±3	414	13.2±3	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			278	9%	152	5%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	638	31%	619	30%	547	31%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	1		3		6	17	1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	5	4%	6	5%	6	5%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			173	9%	143	7%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			4	3%	12	12%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	22	16	14	10	21	15	15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	12	4	17	5	18	6	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	29	9	53	17	66	22	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0		0		2		84	1.5

(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

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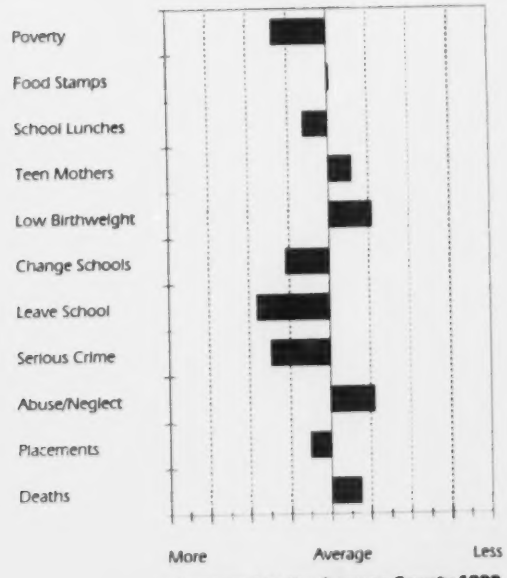
Kanabec

Demographics

Estimated population, 1999 14,427
Estimated number of children, 1999 4,308
Estimated % of children, 1999 ..... 29.9%
Estimated number of children, 1991 3,930
% change in number of children, 1991-99 ..... 9.6%
Projected population, 2005 14,210
Projected number of children, 2005 3,870
(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Kanabec County



Compared to the Average County 1999

(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

142

Kanabec County is a moderately small county located in east central Minnesota. The county seat is Mora. In 1998, the county had a per capita personal income of $18,414, which was the sixth lowest among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in Kanabec County in 1998 were retail trade, state and local government, and services. The fastest growing industry was construction, which increased by almost 8% between 1997 and 1998. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 6.6%.

Positives: Close to average county on many indicators of child well-being.

Concerns: Higher than average percentage of children in poverty, changing schools, not graduating on time, and arrests for serious crime.

Trends to Watch: Increases in out-of-home placements and children not graduating on time.

	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	890	23%	653	15%±4	787	18.2±5	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			551	13%	326	8%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	653	25%	964	34%	950	34%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	6		9	25	7	12	1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	15	10%	15	10%	7	5%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			425	15%	380	13%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			22	12%	34	17%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	26	16	58	31	55	27	15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	9		27	7	23	5	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	24	6	65	17	77	18	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	2		0		1		84	1.5

(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

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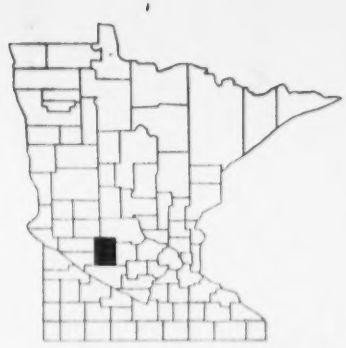
Kandiyohi

Kandiyohi County is located in west central Minnesota and is the twenty-second largest county in the state. The county seat is Willmar. During the summer months, the county's population includes migrant farm workers and their children. In 1999-00, 7% of students in the county had limited English proficiency, compared to 2% in 1991-92. In 1998, it had a per capita personal income of $24,976, which ranked seventeenth in the state. In 1998, the largest industries in the county were services, state and local government, and non-durable goods manufacturing. The fastest growing was non-durable goods manufacturing, which increased 23% from 1997 to 1998. The 1999 unemployment rate was 3.5%.

Positives: Lower than average percentage of children born at low birth weight.

Concerns: Higher than average teen birth rate, school transfers, children not graduating on time and arrests for serious crime.

Trends to Watch: Increase in school transfers.

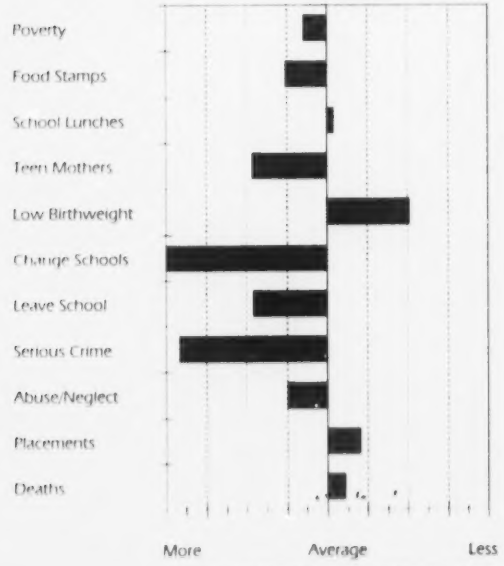


Demographics

Estimated population, 1999	40,826
Estimated number of children, 1999	11,631
Estimated % of children, 1999	28.5%
Estimated number of children, 1991	11,922
% change in number of children, 1991-99	-2.4%
Projected population, 2005	44,200
Projected number of children, 2005	11,720

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Kandiyohi County



Compared to the Average County 1999

(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	2,014	18%	1,737	15%±3	1,910	16.2±4	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			2,044	18%	1,164	10%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	2,238	30%	2,237	33%	1,888	30%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	22		21	26	19	20	1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	20	4%	30	6%	18	4%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			1,246	19%	1,522	24%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			70	15%	82	17%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	269	59	352	68	224	42	15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	77	6	143	12	110	9	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	148	12	140	12	129	11	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	6		2		5		84	1.5

(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

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Kittson

Kittson County is in the northwest corner of Minnesota, bordering North Dakota and Canada. The county seat is Hallock. Kittson is the sixth smallest county in Minnesota. Kittson County's per capita personal income of $21,808 ranked fiftieth among Minnesota counties. The county's largest industries in 1998 were services, state and local government, and farming. Farming was the fastest growing industry in Kittson County between 1997 to 1998. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 5.8%.

Positives: Lower than average teen birth rate, school transfers, and students not graduating on time, and substantiated reports of abuse and neglect.

Concerns: Higher than average percentage of children in poverty and receiving free/reduced-price school lunch, children born at low birth weight, arrests for serious crime, and child deaths.

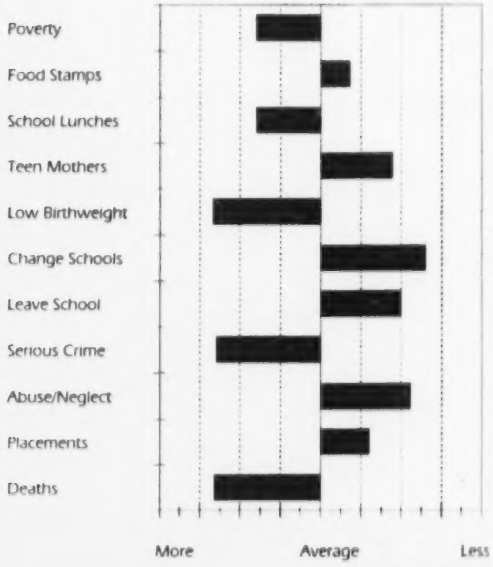
Trends to Watch: Increase in children receiving free/reduced-price school lunch.

Demographics

Estimated population, 1999	5,175
Estimated number of children, 1999	1,301
Estimated % of children, 1999	25.1%
Estimated number of children, 1991	1,506
% change in number of children, 1991-99	-13.6%
Projected population, 2005	5,010
Projected number of children, 2005	1,220

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Kittson County



Compared to the Average County 1999

(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

146

	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	239	15%	188	13%±3	257	18.8±5	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			152	11%	78	6%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	375	33%	357	30%	412	40%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	0		2	15	0		1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	1	2%	5	8%	6	8%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			41	3%	57	5%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			5	6%	3	3%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	0		1		21	35	15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	1		1		4		11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	4		7		12	9	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	1		2		0		84	1.5

(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

147

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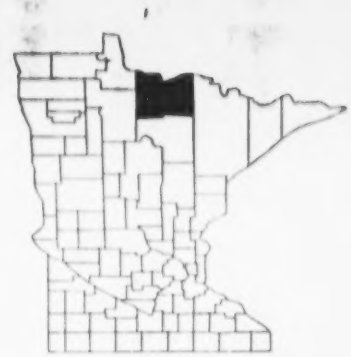
Koochiching

Koochiching County is a moderately small county located in northern Minnesota on the Canadian border. The county seat is International Falls. Part of the Boise Forte Indian Reservation lies within the county. In 1998, Koochiching County had a per capita personal income of $21,823, ranked forty-ninth in the state. The largest industries in 1998 were non-durable goods manufacturing, services, and state and local government. The fastest growing industry was state and local government, which increased by 10.5%. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 6.8%.



Positives: Close to the average county in percentage of children receiving food stamps and free/reduced-price school lunch, teen birth rate, low birth weight babies and out-of-home placements.

Concerns: Higher than average percentage of school transfers, children not graduating on time, arrests for serious crime, and child deaths.

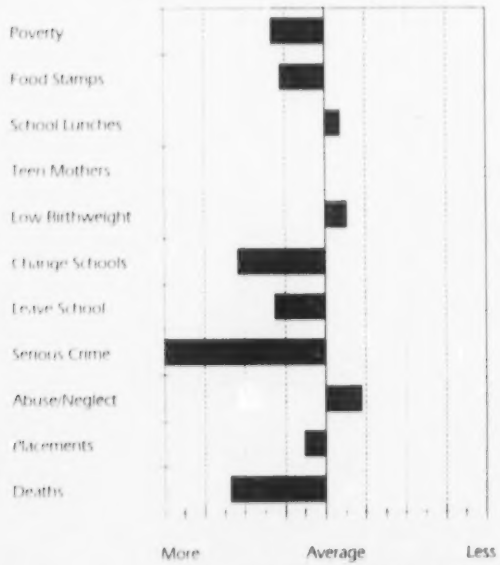
Trends to Watch: Increase in school transfers.

Demographics

Estimated population, 1999	14,895
Estimated number of children, 1999	3,679
Estimated % of children, 1999	24.7%
Estimated number of children, 1991	4,191
% change in number of children, 1991-99	-12.2%
Projected population, 2005	15,000
Projected number of children, 2005	2,810

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Koochiching County



Compared to the Average County 1999

(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

148

	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	902	21%	630	16%±3	685	18.1±5	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			489	12%	374	10%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	648	24%	636	25%	693	28%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	7		5	13	5	14	1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	8	4%	4	3%	8	5%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			278	11%	401	16%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			33	16%	34	15%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	91	50	66	35	91	49	15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	25	6	24	6	21	6	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	63	15	60	14	66	18	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	3		1		0		84	1.5

(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

149

Lac Qui Parle

Lac Qui Parle County is located in southwestern Minnesota on the South Dakota border next to the Minnesota River. The county seat is Madison. It is the twelfth smallest county in the state. Its 1998 per capita personal income of $22,062 ranked forty-fourth among Minnesota counties. Lac Qui Parle County's largest industries in 1998 were farm, state and local government, and services. Farming showed the largest increase between 1997 and 1998, increasing at a rate of almost 10%. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 3.4%.

Positives: Lower than average percentage of children in low-income families, teen births, children born at low birth weight, children not graduating on time and arrest rate for serious crime, and substantiated reports of abuse and neglect.

Concerns: Slightly higher than average rate of child deaths.

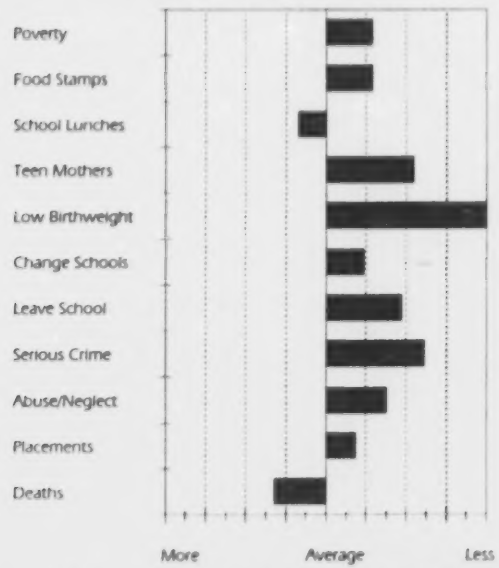
Trends to Watch: Increase in school transfers.

Demographics

Estimated population, 1999	7,813
Estimated number of children, 1999	2,008
Estimated % of children, 1999	25.7%
Estimated number of children, 1991	2,326
% change in number of children, 1991-99	-13.7%
Projected population, 2005	7,370
Projected number of children, 2005	1,640

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Lac Qui Parle County



Compared to the Average County 1999

(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

150

	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	320	13%	248	11%±3	247	11.8±3	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			155	7%	100	5%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	587	31%	541	29%	680	34%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	2		1		2		1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	1	1%	4	5%	1	1%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			143	8%	184	9%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			10	7%	6	4%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	0		4		4		15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	4		23	10	9	4	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	15	6	26	11	23	11	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0		0		1		84	1.5

(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

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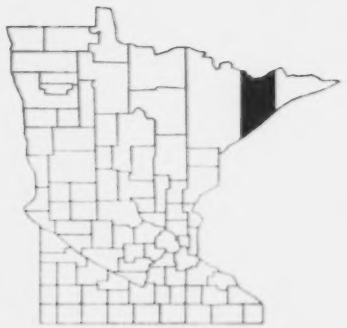
Lake

Lake County is a moderately small county located in northeastern Minnesota on the North Shore of Lake Superior. The county seat is Two Harbors. It is the eighteenth smallest county in Minnesota. Its 1998 per capita personal income of $21,558 ranked fifty-fourth among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in 1998 were mining, and state and local government, and services. The fastest growing industry was state and local government, which increased by 12.5% from 1997 to 1998. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 3.8%.

Positives: Lower than average percentage of children receiving free/reduced-price school lunch, teen birth rate, and school transfers.

Concerns: None based on these indicators.

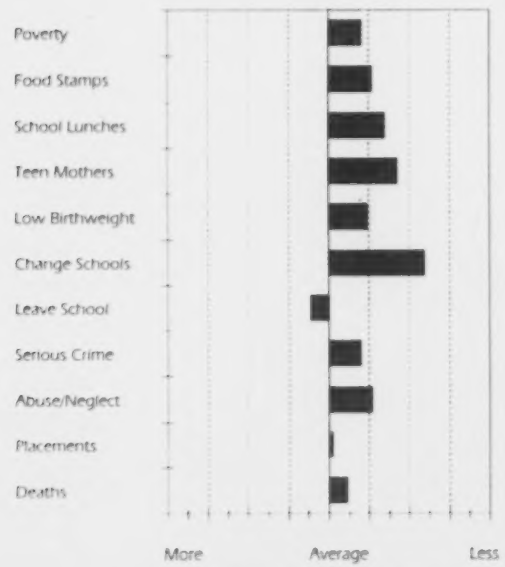
Trends to Watch: Decrease in school transfers.



Demographics

Estimated population, 1999 10,765
Estimated number of children, 1999 2,428
Estimated % of children, 1999 ..... 22.6%
Estimated number of children, 1991 2,542
% change in number of children, 1991-99 ..... -4.5%
Projected population, 2005 10,230
Projected number of children, 2005 2,120
(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Lake County



Compared to the Average County 1999

(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	329	13%	279	11%±2	315	12.7±3	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			211	8%	126	5%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	441	20%	521	24%	472	23%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	0		3	20	1		1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	5	4%	8	8%	5	5%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			449	20%	122	6%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			12	8%	19	12%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	7		11	9	14	11	15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	12	5	14	5	13	5	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	37	15	45	18	36	15	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0		2		0		84	1.5

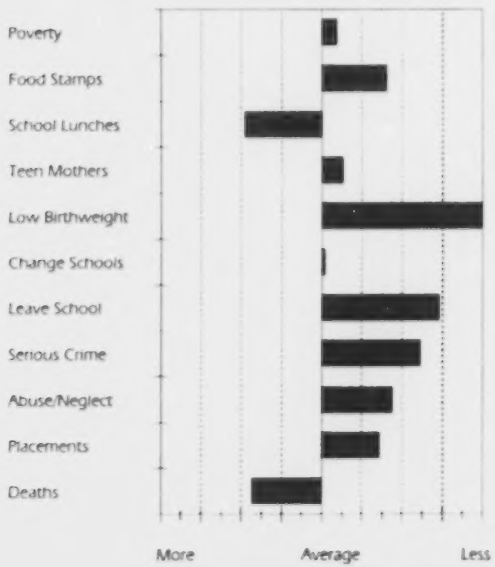
(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

Lake of the Woods

Demographics

Estimated population, 1999 4,621
Estimated number of children, 1999 1,247
Estimated % of children, 1999 ..... 27.0%
Estimated number of children, 1991 1,177
% change in number of children, 1991-99 ..... 6.0%
Projected population, 2010 4,470
Projected number of children, 2010 1,010
(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Lake of the Woods County



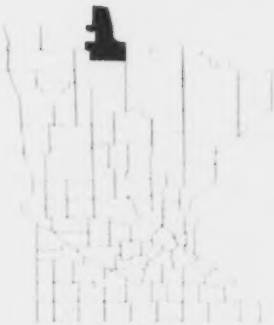
Compared to the Average County 1999
(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

Lake of the Woods County is located in northern Minnesota on the Canadian border. The county seat is Baudette. It is the third smallest county in Minnesota. Portions of the Red Lake Indian Reservation (http://www.indians.state.mn.us/redlake.html) are located in the county. In 1998, the county had a per capita personal income of $19,763, which ranked sixteenth lowest among counties in Minnesota. The largest industries in 1998 were services, non-durable goods manufacturing, and state and local government. The fastest growing industry from 1997 to 1998 was non-durable goods manufacturing, which increased by 15.6%. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 4.8%.

Positives: Lower than average percentage of children receiving food stamps, low birth weight babies, children not graduating on time, arrests for serious crime, substantiated reports of abuse and neglect, and out-of-home placements.

Concerns: Higher than average percentage of children receiving free/reduced-price school lunch, and child deaths.

Trends to Watch: Increase in school transfers.



	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	216	19%	139	11%±3	176	13.8±4	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			80	7%	49	4%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	308	40%	378	44%	342	42%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	1		2	19	2		1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	4	7%	2	4%	0	0%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			61	7%	93	11%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			1	2%	0	0%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	2		7		1		15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	4		12	10	5		11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	13	11	9		10	8	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0		0		1		84	1.5

(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

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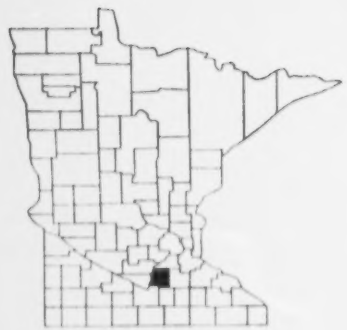
LeSueur

Le Sueur County is a mid-size county in south central Minnesota. The county seat is Le Center. In 1999-00, almost 4% of students in the county had limited English proficiency, compared to less than 1% in 1991-92. Le Sueur County's 1998 per capita personal income of $23,527 ranked twenty-fourth among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in the county were durable goods manufacturing, services, and non-durable goods manufacturing. The fastest growing industry in the county was construction, which increased by over 17% from 1997 to 1998. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 3.3%.

Positives: Lower than average percentage of children in poverty and receiving food stamps, low birth weight babies, and children not graduating on time.

Concerns: Higher than average rate of child deaths.

Trends to Watch: Decrease in teen birth rate.

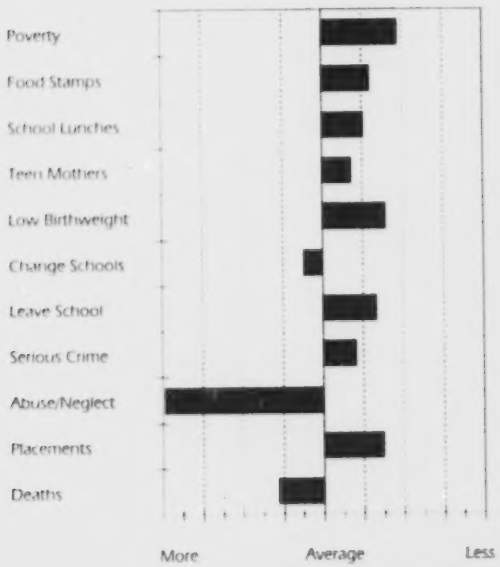


Demographics

Estimated population, 1999	25,464
Estimated number of children, 1999	7,340
Estimated % of children, 1999	28.8%
Estimated number of children, 1991	6,971
% change in number of children, 1991-99	5.3%
Projected population, 2010	26,030
Projected number of children, 2010	7,100

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in LeSueur County



Compared to the Average County 1999

(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	824	12%	610	8%±2	744	10±3	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			579	8%	360	5%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	809	19%	1,375	27%	1,202	25%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	9		10	16	5	12	1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	20	6%	20	6%	12	4%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			564	11%	618	12%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			33	10%	21	6%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	16	5	29	9	39	11	15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	44	6	36	5	113	15	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	41	6	58	8	57	8	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	1		1		3		84	1.5

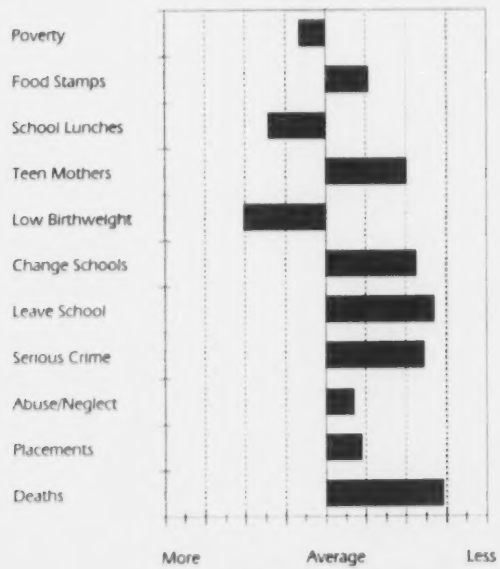
(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

Lincoln

Demographics

Estimated population, 1999 6,424
Estimated number of children, 1999 1,643
Estimated % of children, 1999 ..... 25.6%
Estimated number of children, 1991 1,789
% change in number of children, 1991-99 ..... -8.2%
Projected population, 2010 5,830
Projected number of children, 2010 1,400
(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Lincoln County



Compared to the Average County 1999
(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

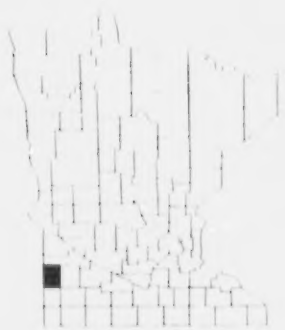
158

Lincoln County, the ninth smallest county in the state, is located in southwestern Minnesota on the South Dakota border. The county seat is Ivanhoe. Lincoln County's 1998 per capita personal income of $19,597 was the fourteenth lowest among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in Lincoln County in 1998 were services, farming, and state and local government. Farming was the county's fastest growing industry between 1997 and 1998, with income more than doubling. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 3.7%.

Positives: Lower than average teen birth rate, school transfers, children not graduating on time, arrests for serious crimes, and child deaths.

Concerns: Higher than average percentage of children receiving free/reduced-price school lunch and children born at low birth weight.

Trends to Watch: Decrease in percentage of children receiving food stamps.



	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	419	23%	257	15%±4	276	16.4±5	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			144	8%	85	5%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	429	39%	446	40%	377	39%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	2		2		1		1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	1	2%	3	5%	5	8%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			54	5%	62	6%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			3	3%	1	1%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	0		0		0		15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	8		11	6	66 (b)	6	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	8		6		116 (b)	11	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0		0		0		84	1.5

(a) mothers under 18 (b) for all of Region 8 North (Lincoln, Lyon, Murray counties) * Rates not given for less than 10 events

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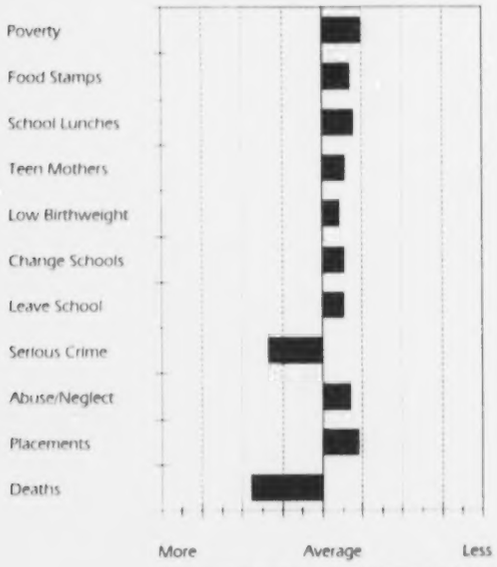
Lyon

Demographics

Estimated population, 1999 24,256
Estimated number of children, 1999 6,592
Estimated % of children, 1999 ..... 27.2%
Estimated number of children, 1991 6,835
% change in number of children, 1991-99 ..... -3.6%
Projected population, 2010 26,010
Projected number of children, 2010 7,330
(children defined as under 18)

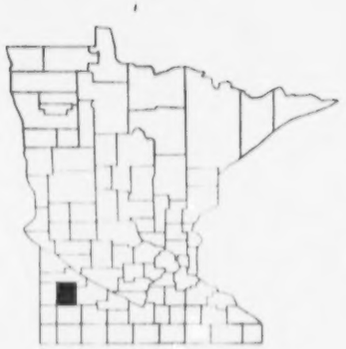
Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Lyon County



Compared to the Average County 1999
(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

160

Lyon County is a mid-size county located in southwestern Minnesota. The county seat is Marshall. During the summer months, the county's population includes migrant farm workers and their children. In 1999-00, almost 5% of students in the county had limited English proficiency, compared to just over 1% in 1991-92. In 1998, Lyon County had a per capita personal income of $25,488, which ranked fourteenth in the state. The largest industries in the county in 1998 were non-durable goods manufacturing, state and local government, and services. Farming was the fastest growing industry from 1997 to 1998, increasing by 17%. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 2.6%.



Positives: Close to average county on most indicators of child well-being.

Concerns: Higher than average arrest rate for serious crime and child deaths.

Trends to Watch: Increase in out-of-home placements.

	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	940	14%	717	10%±2	836	12.3±3	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			705	10%	399	6%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	1,262	26%	1,421	28%	1,237	26%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	8		15	22	8	12	1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	4	1%	16	5%	17	5%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			550	11%	470	10%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			23	6%	35	9%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	116	42	110	35	80	26	15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	41	6	48	7	66 (b)	6	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	105	15	98	14	116 (b)	11	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	2		2		1		84	1.5

(a) mothers under 18 (b) for all of Region 8 North (Lincoln, Lyon, Murray counties) * Rates not given for less than 10 events

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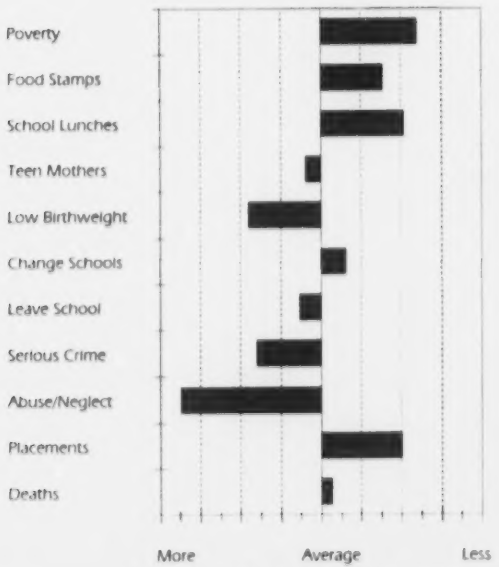
McLeod

Demographics

Estimated population, 1999 34,552
Estimated number of children, 1999 9,878
Estimated % of children, 1999 ..... 28.6%
Estimated number of children, 1991 9,489
% change in number of children, 1991-99 ..... 4.1%
Projected population, 2010 37,430
Projected number of children, 2010 10,510
(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in McLeod County



Compared to the Average County 1999
(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

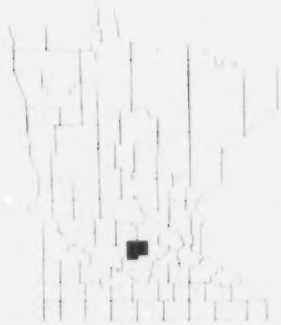
162

McLeod County is located in the south central portion of the state and is the twenty-fifth largest county. The county seat is Glencoe. In 1999-00, 2% of students in the county had limited English proficiency, compared to less than .5% in 1991-92. The county's 1998 per capita personal income was $26,216, the eleventh largest in the state. Its largest industries in 1998 were durable goods manufacturing, non-durable goods manufacturing and state and local government. Non-durable goods manufacturing was the fastest growing industry, increasing by 23% from 1997 to 1998. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 3.3%.

Positives: Lower than average percentage of children in low-income families, and out-of-home placements.

Concerns: Higher than average percentage of children born at low birth weight and arrests for serious crime, and substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect.

Trends to Watch: Increase in children receiving free/reduced-price school lunch.



	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	780	8%	727	7%±2	864	8.7±2	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			570	6%	405	4%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	707	12%	775	12%	1,169	19%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	7		13	15	16	15	1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	13	3%	34	7%	35	7%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			727	11%	607	10%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			54	12%	57	12%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	154	40	150	35	128	28	15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	113	12	104	11	143	14	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	55	6	37	4	50	5	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	4		2		1		84	1.5

(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

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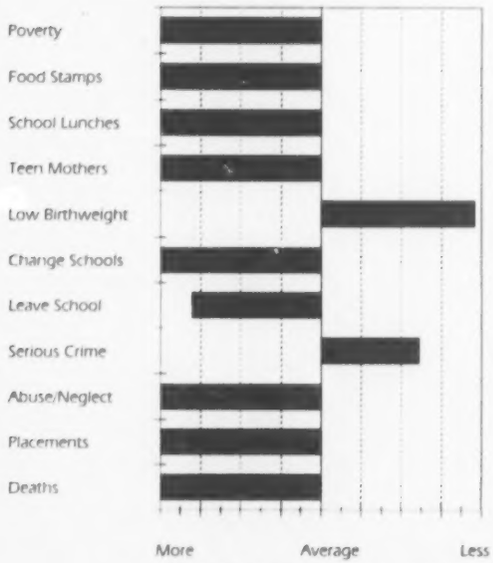
Mahnomen

Demographics

Estimated population, 1999	5,091
Estimated number of children, 1999	1,609
Estimated % of children, 1999	31.6%
Estimated number of children, 1991	1,587
% change in number of children, 1991-99	1.4%
Projected population, 2010	4,950
Projected number of children, 2010	1,490

(children defined as under 18)

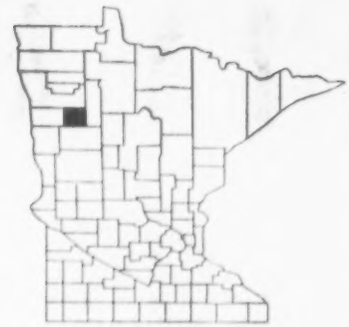
Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Mahnomen County



Compared to the Average County 1999

(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

Mahnomen County is located in northwestern Minnesota and is the fifth smallest county in the state. The county seat is Mahnomen. Much of the White Earth Indian Reservation is located in the county. The county's 1998 personal per capita income was $16,434, the lowest in the state. The largest industries in 1998 were services, state and local government, and transportation and public utilities. State and local government was the fastest growing industry, increasing 5% between 1997 and 1998. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 7.5%.



Positives: Lower than average percentage of children born at low birth weight and arrests for serious crime.

Concerns: Higher than average percentage of children living in low-income families, teen birth rate, school transfers, children not graduating on time, substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect, and out-of-home placements and child deaths.

Trends to Watch: Increase in percentage of children not graduating on time.

	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	556	35%	412	25%±6	490	30.4±8	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			392	24%	408	25%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	956	64%	992	66%	954	68%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	2		6	31	5	33	1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	3	5%	5	7%	1	2%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			366	24%	372	26%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			14	12%	24	22%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	2		3		1		15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	29	18	30	18	26	16	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	59	37	80	51	63	39	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	1		1		1		84	1.5

(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

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Marshall

Marshall County is the eighteenth smallest county in Minnesota, located along the North Dakota border in the northwest corner of the state. The county seat is Warren. Marshall County's 1998 per capita personal income of $19,497 ranked twelfth lowest among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in the county in 1998 were state and local, and services, and construction. The fastest growing industry construction, which increase by almost 8% from 1997 to 1998. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 9.8%.

Positives: Lower than average percentage of children not graduating on time, rate of arrests for serious crime and out-of-home placements.

Concerns: Higher than average percentage of children receiving free/reduced-price school lunch, substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect and child death rate.

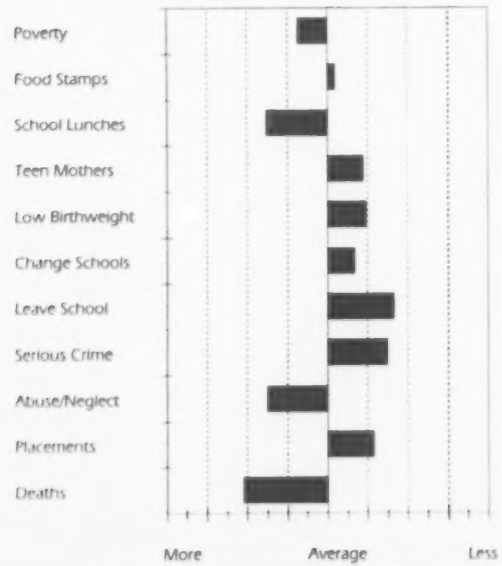
Trends to Watch: Decrease in percentage of children receiving food stamps.

Demographics

Estimated population, 1999	10,094
Estimated number of children, 1999	2,852
Estimated % of children, 1999	28.3%
Estimated number of children, 1991	3,185
% change in number of children, 1991-99	-10.5%
Projected population, 2010	9,840
Projected number of children, 2010	2,550

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Marshall County



Compared to the Average County 1999

(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	564	17%	421	14%±3	491	16.6±4	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			346	11%	206	7%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	972	40%	734	36%	685	39%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	2		6	12	2	11	1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	9	7%	5	4%	5	5%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			225	11%	177	10%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			8	5%	7	5%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	16	11	3		10	7	15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	12	4	22	7	30	11	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	16	5	27	8	27	9	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0		2		0		84	1.5

(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

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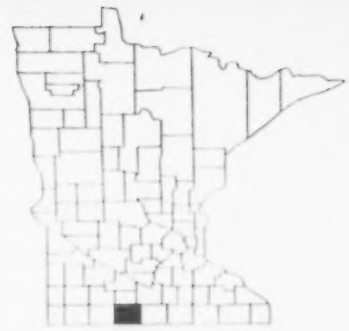
Martin

Martin County is a mid-size county located in south central Minnesota on the Iowa border. The county seat is Fairmont. In 1998, Martin County had a per capita personal income of $23,569, which ranked twenty-third among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in Martin County in 1998 were services, durable goods manufacturing, and state and local government. The fastest growing industry in the county between 1997 and 1998 was construction, which increased by almost 11%. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 3.5%.



Positives: Lower than average rate of child deaths, and close to average county on almost all indicators of child well-being.

Concerns: Higher than average substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect.

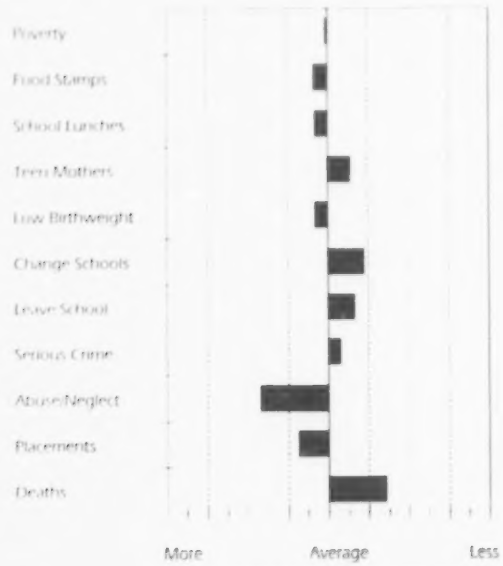
Trends to Watch: Decrease in teen birth rate.

Demographics

Estimated population, 1999	21,792
Estimated number of children, 1999	5,656
Estimated % of children, 1999	26.0%
Estimated number of children, 1991	6,173
% change in number of children, 1991-99	-8.4%
Projected population, 2010	21,580
Projected number of children, 2010	4,740

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Martin County



Compared to the Average County 1999

(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	820	13%	781	13%±3	866	14.9±4	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			743	12%	477	8%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	1,266	30%	1,389	32%	1,300	32%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	12		11	18	5	12	1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	13	4%	12	5%	14	6%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			404	10%	359	9%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			12	4%	28	8%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	56	21	82	30	40	15	15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	28	5	79	13	107 (b)	11	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	59	10	95	15	187 (b)	19	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0		1		-		84	1.5

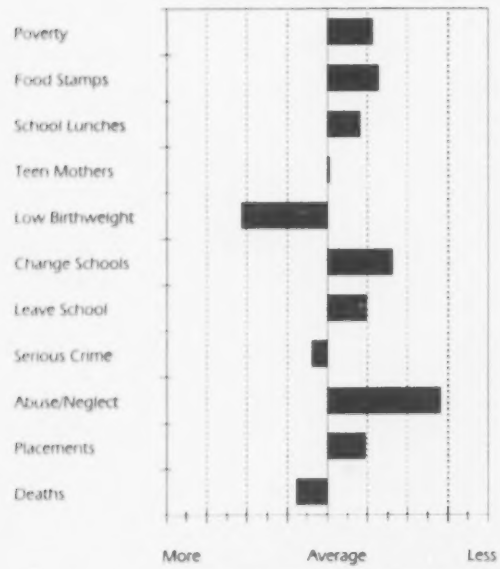
(a) mothers under 18 (b) for Faribault and Martin counties combined * Rates not given for less than 10 events

Meeker

Demographics

Estimated population, 1999 21,763
Estimated number of children, 1999 6,319
Estimated % of children, 1999 ..... 29.0%
Estimated number of children, 1991 6,279
% change in number of children, 1991-99 ..... 0.6%
Projected population, 2010 21,220
Projected number of children, 2010 5,470
(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Meeker County



Compared to the Average County 1999
(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

170

Meeker County is a mid-size county in central Minnesota. The county seat is Litchfield. The 1998 per capita personal income in Meeker County was $21,064, ranking sixty-first among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in 1998 were durable goods manufacturing, state and local government, and services. Transportation and public utilities was the fastest growing industry in the county, increasing by almost 17% between 1997 and 1998. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 5.4%.

Positives: Lower than average percentage of children in poverty, receiving food stamps, school transfers, and substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect.

Concerns: Higher than average percentage of children born at low birth weight.

Trends to Watch: Increase in rate of arrests for serious crime.

	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	974	16%	685	11%±2	769	11.9±3	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			505	8%	299	5%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	1,574	28%	1,651	26%	1,602	26%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	6		8	16	8	14	1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	7	3%	16	6%	23	8%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			474	8%	472	7%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			29	6%	33	7%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	10	4	16	6	59	20	15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	11	2	7		12	2	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	54	9	73	12	66	10	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	3		1		1		84	1.5

(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

171

Children's Defense Fund of MN, 200 University Ave. W., Suite 210, St. Paul, MN 55103; 651/227-6121; www.cdf-mn.org

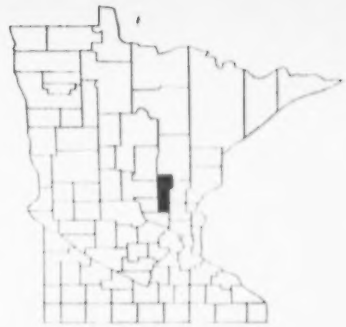
Mille Lacs

Mille Lacs County is a mid-size county located in east central Minnesota. The county seat is Milaca. The Mille Lacs Indian Reservation is located within the county borders. Its 1998 per capita income of $19,490 was eleventh lowest among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in 1998 were services, state and local government, and durable goods manufacturing. The fastest growing industry was construction, which increased almost 9% from 1997 to 1998. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 6.2%.

Positives: Lower than average percentage of children born at low birth weight and child deaths.

Concerns: Higher than average percentage of children in poverty, teen birth rate, arrest rate for serious crime, and out-of-home placements.

Trends to Watch: Increase in out-of-home placements, decrease in percentage of children receiving food stamps.

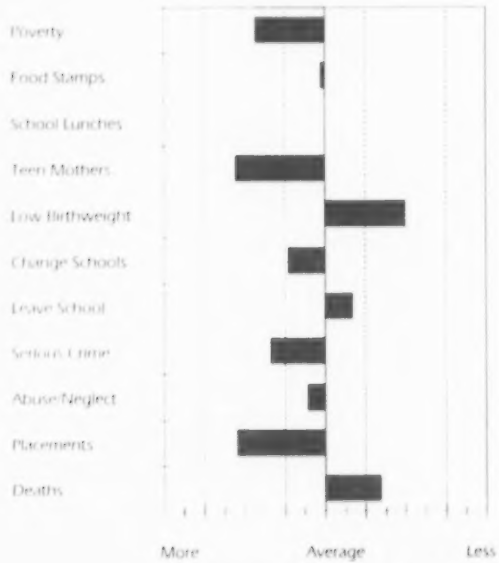


Demographics

Estimated population, 1999	21,350
Estimated number of children, 1999	6,091
Estimated % of children, 1999	28.5%
Estimated number of children, 1991	5,584
% change in number of children, 1991-99	9.1%
Projected population, 2010	21,710
Projected number of children, 2010	5,380

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Mille Lacs County



Compared to the Average County 1999

(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	861	16%	873	15%±3	1165	19.1±5	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			849	15%	478	8%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	1,889	32%	1,943	32%	1,880	31%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	14		10	23	8	22	1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	11	4%	8	4%	9	4%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			838	14%	812	13%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			36	10%	34	8%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	53	23	32	12	75	26	15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	84	15	63	11	51	8	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	98	18	119	21	161	26	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0		5		0		84	1.5

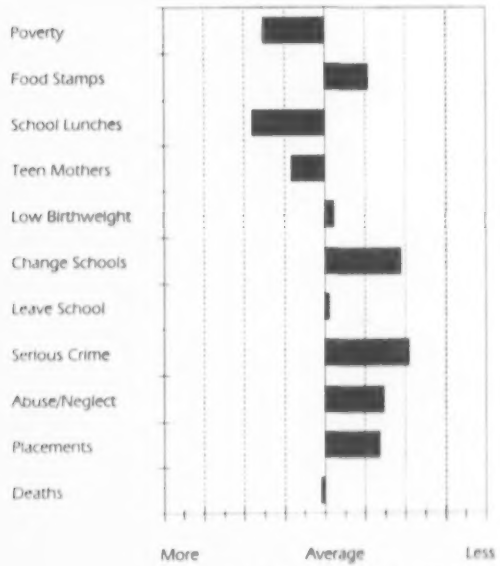
(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

Morrison

Demographics

Estimated population, 1999 30,522
Estimated number of children, 1999 9,404
Estimated % of children, 1999 ..... 30.8%
Estimated number of children, 1991 9,333
% change in number of children, 1991-99 ..... 0.8%
Projected population, 2010 31,220
Projected number of children, 2010 8,490
(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Morrison County



Compared to the Average County 1999
(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

174

Morrison County is a moderately large county located in central Minnesota. The county seat is Little Falls. The county's 1998 per capita personal income was $19,134, ranking tenth lowest among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in 1998 in the county were services, state and local government, and durable goods manufacturing. A large increase in wholesale trade made it the fastest growing industry in Morrison County between 1997 and 1998. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 6.1%.

Positives: Lower than average number of school transfers, arrest rate for serious crime, substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect and out-of-home placements.

Concerns: Higher than average percentage of children living in poverty and receiving free/reduced-price school lunch.

Trends to Watch: Decrease in percentage of children receiving food stamps.

	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	2,204	23%	1,547	16%±4	1,790	18.6±5	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			1,041	11%	487	5%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	2,839	44%	2,670	43%	2,472	41%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	8		12	23	13	17	1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	13	3%	15	4%	21	5%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			539	9%	421	7%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			55	11%	51	10%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	45	11	36	8	11	2	15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	45	5	53	6	43	5	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	61	7	75	8	79	8	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	3		2		0		84	1.5

(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

175

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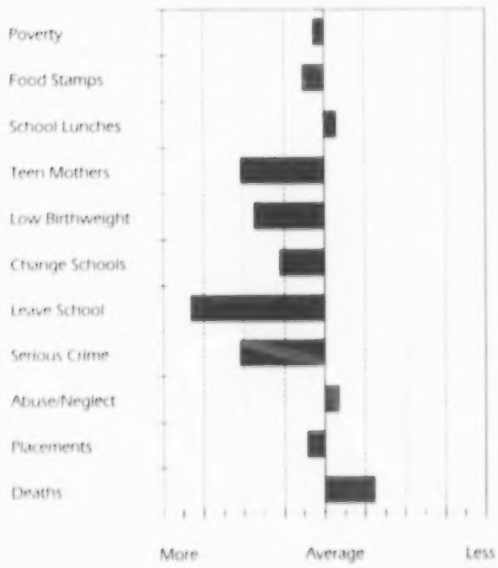
Mower

Demographics

Estimated population, 1999 37,152
Estimated number of children, 1999 9,263
Estimated % of children, 1999 ..... 24.9%
Estimated number of children, 1991 9,685
% change in number of children, 1991-99 ..... -4.4%
Projected population, 2010 36,400
Projected number of children, 2010 8,440
(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Mower County



Compared to the Average County 1999
(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

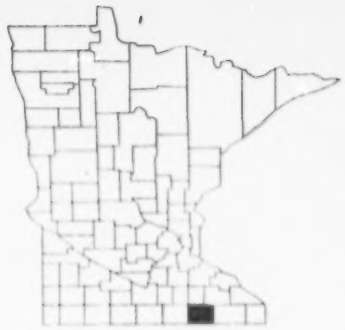
176

Mower County is located in southeastern Minnesota on the Iowa border. The county seat is Austin. It is the twenty-fourth largest county in the state. In 1999-00, about 3.5% of students in the county had limited English proficiency, compared to less than 1% in 1991-92. The county's 1998 per capita personal income of $24,567 was the eighteenth largest among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in 1997 were non-durable goods manufacturing, services, and state and local government. Construction was the fastest growing industry between 1997 and 1998, increasing by 14.5%. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 2.1%.

Positives: Lower than average rate of child deaths.

Concerns: Higher than average teen birth rate, percentage of low birth weight babies, school transfers, children not graduating on time, and arrests for serious crime.

Trends to Watch: Increases in children not graduating on time and out-of-home placements.



	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	1,548	16%	1,213	13%±3	1,446	15.4±4	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			1,210	13%	819	9%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	1,428	25%	1,567	26%	1,727	29%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	26		14	25	22	21	1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	26	5%	22	5%	35	7%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			756	12%	820	14%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			64	14%	109	23%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	146	36	178	41	138	31	15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	54	6	66	7	63	7	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	96	10	137	14	162	17	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	2		1		2		84	1.5

(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

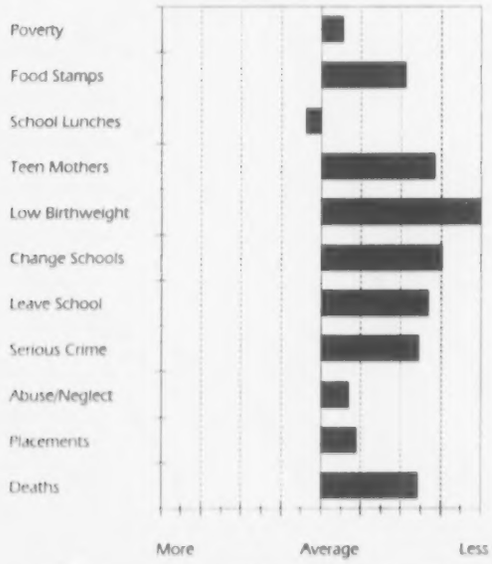
177

Murray

Demographics

Estimated population, 1999 9,519
Estimated number of children, 1999 2,509
Estimated % of children, 1999 ..... 26.4%
Estimated number of children, 1991 2,633
% change in number of children, 1991-99 ..... -4.7%
Projected population, 2010 8,490
Projected number of children, 2010 2,010
(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Murray County



Compared to the Average County 1999
(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

178

Murray County is located in the southwestern corner of Minnesota. The county seat is Slayton. It is the fourteenth smallest county in the state. Murray County had a per capita personal income of $21,073 in 1998, which ranked sixtieth among Minnesota counties. Murray County's largest industries in 1998 were farming, services, and state and local government. The fastest growing industry in the county was farming, which more than doubled between 1997 and 1998. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 4.2%.

Positives: Lower than average percentage of children receiving food stamps, teen birth rate, low birth weight babies, school transfers, children not graduating on time, arrest rate for serious crime and child deaths.

Concerns: None based on these indicators.

Trends to Watch: Decrease in percentage of school transfers.

	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	421	16%	321	12%±3	350	13.4±4	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			180	7%	69	3%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	367	24%	451	28%	486	33%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	1		1		1		1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	3	2%	4	4%	1	1%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			124	8%	65	4%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			3	3%	1	1%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	0	-	0		0		15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	8		9		66 (b)	6	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	16	6	10	4	116 (b)	11	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0		0		1		84	1.5

(a) mothers under 18 (b) for all of Region 8 North (Lincoln, Lyon and Murray counties) * Rates not given for less than 10 events

179

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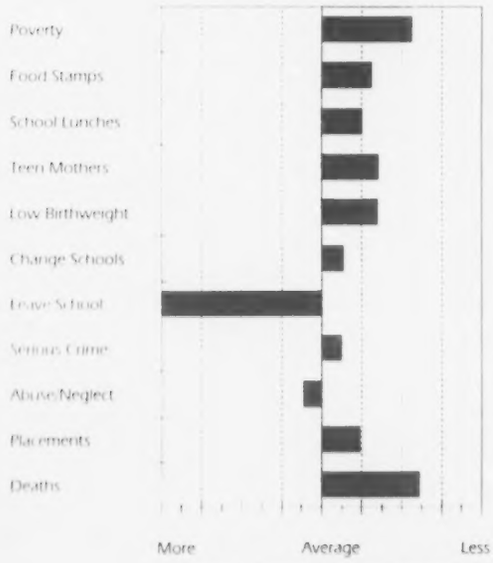
Nicollet

Demographics

Estimated population, 1999 29,272
Estimated number of children, 1999 7,736
Estimated % of children, 1999 ..... 26.4%
Estimated number of children, 1991 7,517
% change in number of children, 1991-99 ..... 2.9%
Projected population, 2010 32,000
Projected number of children, 2010 8,630
(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Nicollet County



Compared to the Average County 1999
(definitions for the graphs are on p. 123)

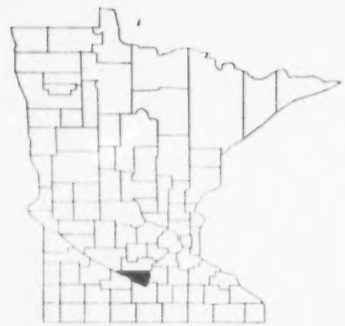
180

Nicollet County, located along the Minnesota River, is a moderately large county located in south central Minnesota. The county seat is St. Peter. Nicollet County's per capita personal income of $23,404 ranked twenty-seventh in the state. The largest industries in Nicollet County in 1998 were non-durable goods manufacturing, state and local government, and durable goods manufacturing. A 32% increase in retail trade made it the fastest growing industry in the county between 1997 and 1998. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 1.9%.

Positives: Lower than average percentage of children in poverty, teen birth rate, children born at low birth weight, and child deaths.

Concerns: Higher than average percentage of children not graduating on time.

Trends to Watch: Increase in percentage of children receiving free/reduced-price school lunch.



	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	981	13%	631	8%±2	722	9.1±2	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			470	6%	368	5%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	426	18%	393	16%	592	25%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	6		7	13	7	9	1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	18	5%	14	4%	14	4%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			189	8%	227	10%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			17	8%	9	5%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	122	40	136	39	48	14	15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	249	33	84	11	65	8	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	79	11	93	12	80	10	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	1		1		0		84	1.5

(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

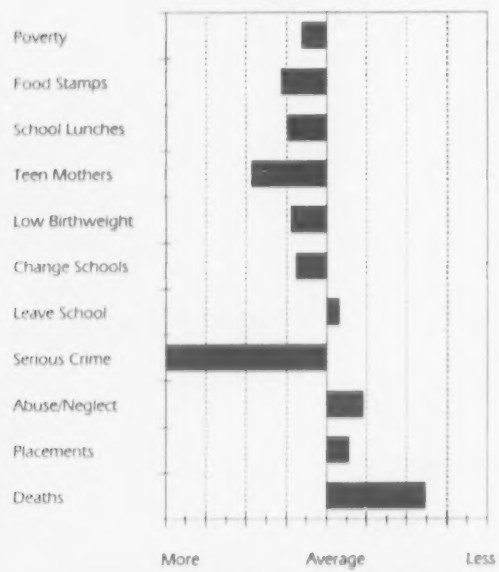
181

Nobles

Demographics

Estimated population, 1999 19,113
Estimated number of children, 1999 4,918
Estimated % of children, 1999 ..... 25.7%
Estimated number of children, 1991 5,442
% change in number of children, 1991-99 ..... -9.6%
Projected population, 2010 20,720
Projected number of children, 2010 5,760
(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Nobles County



Compared to the Average County 1999
(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

182

Nobles County is a mid-size county located in southwestern Minnesota on the Iowa border. The county seat is Worthington. During the summer months, the county's population includes migrant farm workers and their children. In 1999-00, more than 8% of students in the county had limited English proficiency, compared to less than 3% in 1991-92. Its per capita personal income in 1997 was $23,319, which was twenty-ninth among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in 1997 were non-durable goods manufacturing, state and local government, and services. Farming was the fastest growing industry, increasing by almost 28% between 1997 and 1998. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 3.2%.

Positives: Lower than average rate of child deaths.

Concerns: Higher than average percentage of children receiving food stamps, teen birth rate, and arrests for serious crime.

Trends to Watch: Increase in arrests for serious crime.

	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	768	14%	646	12%±3	828	16.3±4	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			571	11%	504	10%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	950	26%	1,185	32%	1,334	36%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	3		13	26	10	21	1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	13	4%	16	5%	19	7%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			610	17%	458	13%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			138	0	26	0	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	0	0%	18	7	175	75	15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	49	9	36	7	28	6	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	67	12	101	19	61	12	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0		0		2		84	1.5

(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

183

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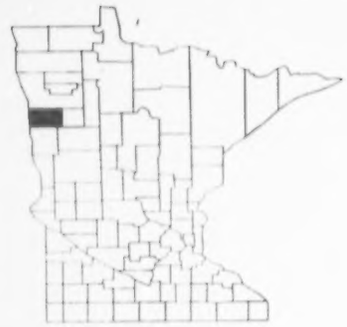
Norman

Norman County, the eleventh smallest county in the state, is located in northwestern Minnesota along the Red River and North Dakota border. The county seat is Ada. During the summer months, the county's population includes migrant farm workers and their children. Norman County's per capita personal income in 1998 was $21,159, which ranked fifty-eighth among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in 1998 were services, state and local government, and farming. Farming was the fastest growing industry in the county, more than doubling between 1997 and 1998. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 5.1%.



Positives: Lower than average teen birth rate, school transfers, children not graduating on time, arrests for serious crimes, substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect, and child deaths.

Concerns: Higher than average percentage of low-income children and children born at low birth weight.

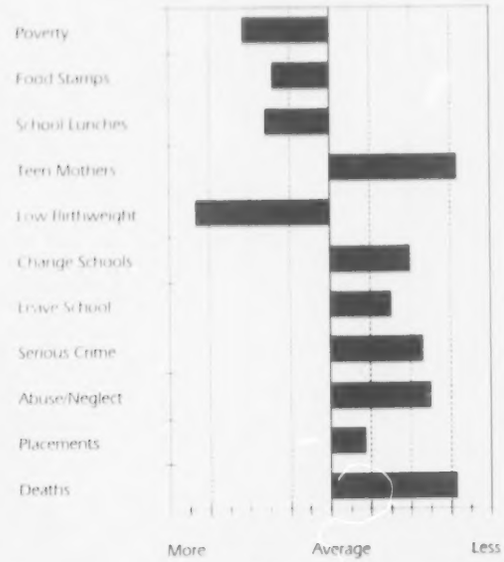
Trends to Watch: Decrease in percentage of children receiving food stamps.

Demographics

Estimated population, 1999	7,517
Estimated number of children, 1999	2,002
Estimated % of children, 1999	26.6%
Estimated number of children, 1991	2,157
% change in number of children, 1991-99	-7.2%
Projected population, 2010	7,130
Projected number of children, 2010	1,840

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Norman County



Compared to the Average County 1999

(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	596	27%	391	19%±4	415	20.2±5	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			497	24%	218	11%	119,644	9.4%\
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	627	38%	620	40%	554	40%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	2		2	11	0		1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	5	6%	6	6%	8	9%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			154	10%	95	7%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			5	4%	6	5%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	0		0		1		15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	10	5	16	8	5		11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	17	8	16	7	22	11	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0		0		0		84	1.5

(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

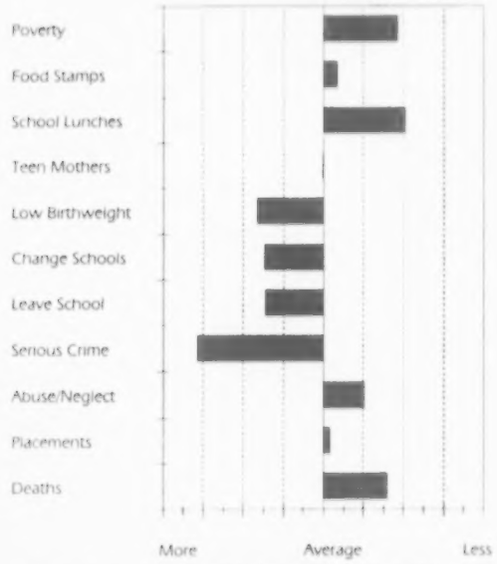
185

Olmsted

Demographics

Estimated population, 1999 119,077
Estimated number of children, 1999 32,221
Estimated % of children, 1999 ..... 27.1%
Estimated number of children, 1991 30,642
% change in number of children, 1991-99 ..... 5.2%
Projected population, 2010 125,440
Projected number of children, 2010 30,570
(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Olmsted County



Compared to the Average County 1999
(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

186

Olmsted County in southeastern Minnesota is the eighth largest county in the state. The county seat is Rochester. In 1999-00, about 8% of students in the county had limited English proficiency, compared to just over 4% in 1991-92. Olmsted County's 1998 per capita personal income of $30,880 ranked fifth among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in the county were services, durable goods manufacturing, and retail trade. The fastest growing industry was durable goods manufacturing, which increased 13% from 1997 and 1998. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 2%.

Positives: Lower than average percentage of children living in poverty and receiving free/reduced-price school lunch, and child deaths.

Concerns: Higher than average percentage of children born at low birth weight, school transfers, children not graduating on time, and arrest rate for serious crime.

Trends to Watch: Increase in out-of-home placements.

	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	2,100	7%	2,648	8%±2	3,262	10.1±3	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			3,096	10%	2,199	7%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	3,377	18%	3,650	18%	4,047	19%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	29		41	16	32	14	1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	80	4%	126	7%	131	7%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			2,865	14%	3,004	14%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			177	14%	207	16%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	544	48	566	45	525	39	15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	158	5	222	7	176	5	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	227	7	246	8	465	14	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	6		3		3		84	1.5

(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

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Otter Tail

Otter Tail County is located in the west central region of Minnesota. The county seat is Fergus Falls. The county is the thirteenth largest county in the state. Otter Tail County's 1998 per capita personal income of $21,295 ranked fifty-seventh among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in the county in 1998 were services, state and local government, and retail trade. Construction was the fastest growing industry in Otter Tail County, increasing by 11.6% between 1997 and 1998. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 4.3%.

Positives: Lower than average percentage of children born at low birth weight.

Concerns: None based on these indicators.

Trends to Watch: Decrease in out-of-home placements.

Demographics

Estimated population, 1999	55,583
Estimated number of children, 1999	14,479
Estimated % of children, 1999	26.0%
Estimated number of children, 1991	13,660
% change in number of children, 1991-99	6.0%
Projected population, 2010	54,830
Projected number of children, 2010	12,400

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Otter Tail County

Compared to the Average County 1999

(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	2,811	21%	2,065	14%±3	2,450	16.8±5	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			1,301	9%	893	6%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	2,865	31%	2,944	31%	2,693	29%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	11		17	15	14	11	1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	33	5%	29	5%	21	4%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			1,017	11%	1,142	12%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			89	13%	92	13%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	168	30	108	17	136	20	15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	137	10	140	10	110	8	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	205	15	186	14	163	11	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	1		2		4		84	1.5

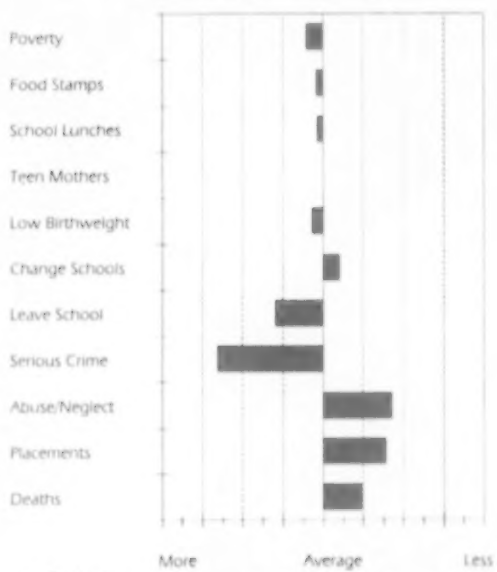
(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

Pennington

Demographics

Estimated population, 1999 13,557
Estimated number of children, 1999 3,646
Estimated % of children, 1999 ..... 26.9%
Estimated number of children, 1991 3,650
% change in number of children, 1991-99 ..... -0.1%
Projected population, 2010 13,390
Projected number of children, 2010 3,470
(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Pennington County



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Compared to the *Average* County 1999
(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

Pennington County is a moderately small county located in northwestern Minnesota. The county seat is Thief River Falls. The county's 1998 per capita personal income of $22,765 was thirty-third among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in Pennington County in 1998 were durable goods manufacturing, services, and wholesale trade. Wholesale trade was the fastest growing industry in the county, increasing by over 11% between 1997 and 1998. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 5.8%.

Positives: Lower than average number of substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect and of children in out-of-home placements.

Concerns: Higher than average rate of children not graduating from school and arrest rate for serious crime.

Trends to Watch: Decrease in percentage of children receiving food stamps.

	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	708	19%	543	15%±3	586	15.8±4	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			413	11%	292	8%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	835	31%	819	31%	750	31%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	5		6	15	4	14	1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	6	4%	8	5%	10	6%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			267	10%	254	10%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			30	16%	27	15%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	61	38	94	53	64	35	15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	8		8		15	4	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	19	5	36	10	27	7	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0		1		0		84	1.5

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(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

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Pine

Pine County is a mid-size county located in east central Minnesota on the Wisconsin border. The county seat is Pine City. A portion of the Mille Lacs Reservation is located in the county. The county's 1998 per capita personal income of $18,403 was the fifth lowest among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in 1998 were services, state and local government, and retail trade. The fastest growing industry was construction, which increased by more than 14% between 1997 and 1998. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 6.2%.

Positives: Lower than average percentage of children born at low birth weight, substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect, and arrest rate for serious crime.

Concerns: Higher than average percentage of children in poverty, school transfers, children not graduating on time, and out-of-home placements.

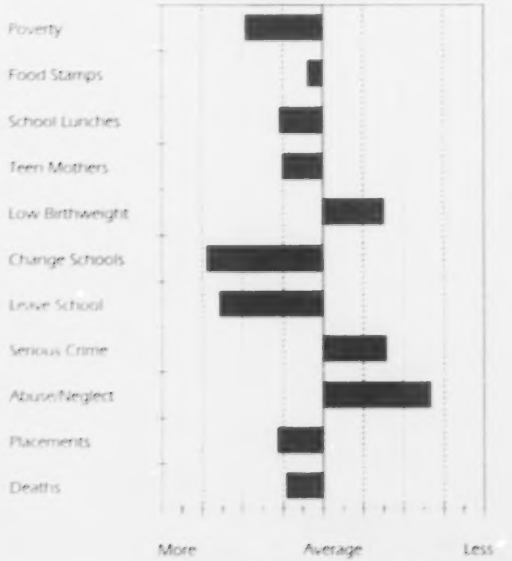
Trends to Watch: Decreases in percentage of children receiving food stamps, increase in out-of-home placements.

Demographics

Estimated population, 1999	24,616
Estimated number of children, 1999	6,909
Estimated % of children, 1999	28.1%
Estimated number of children, 1991	6,160
% change in number of children, 1991-99	12.2%
Projected population, 2010	24,650
Projected number of children, 2010	6,510

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Pine County



Compared to the Average County 1999

(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	1,519	26%	1,071	16%±4	1,327	19.6±5	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			1,063	16%	586	8%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	1,625	36%	1,676	36%	1,643	37%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	17		10	21	15	18	1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	14	5%	11	5%	13	4%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			969	21%	792	18%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			49	17%	65	20%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	26	10	31	10	21	6	15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	11	2	6		15	2	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	91	15	98	16	145	21	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0		5		2		84	1.5

(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

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Pipestone

Pipestone County is located in the southwestern corner of the state along the South Dakota border. The county seat is Pipestone. It's the seventeenth smallest county in Minnesota. In 1998, Pipestone County had a per capita personal income of $19,898, which ranked fiftieth among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in 1998 were services, state and local government, and retail trade. Durable goods manufacturing was the fastest growing industry in the county between 1997 and 1998, increasing by over 16%. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 2.9%.

Positives: Lower than average teen birth rate, children born at low birth weight, and arrest rate for serious crime.

Concerns: Higher than average percentage of children not graduating on time, and substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect.

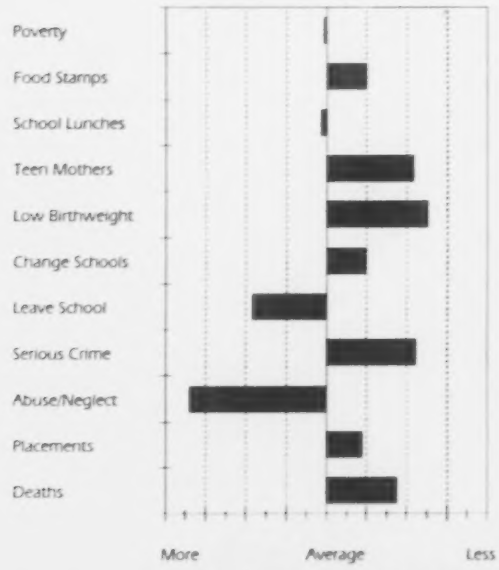
Trends to Watch: Decrease in percentage of children receiving food stamps.

Demographics

Estimated population, 1999	9,993
Estimated number of children, 1999	2,791
Estimated % of children, 1999	27.9%
Estimated number of children, 1991	2,940
% change in number of children, 1991-99	-5.1%
Projected population, 2010	9,530
Projected number of children, 2010	2,350

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Pipestone County



Compared to the Average County 1999

(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	487	17%	381	13%±3	425	14.9±4	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			232	8%	149	5%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	695	31%	696	32%	651	31%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	4		1		2		1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	6	4%	10	9%	3	3%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			240	11%	194	9%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			11	8%	19	17%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	12	10	10	8	2		15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	24	8	36	13	40	14	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	54	18	40	14	30	11	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0		1		1		84	1.5

(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

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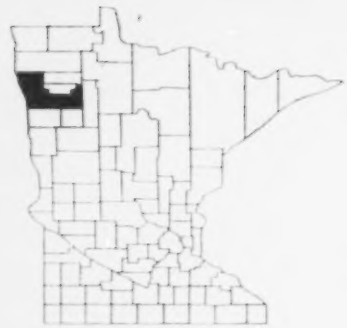
Polk

Polk County is a moderately large county in northwest Minnesota on the North Dakota border and the Red River. The county seat is Crookston. During the summer months, the county's population includes migrant farm workers and their children. In 1999-00, about 2% of students in the county had limited English proficiency, about the same as in 1991-92. Its 1998 per capita personal income of $22,024 ranked forty-fifth among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in the county in 1998 were services, state and local government, and retail trade. The fastest growing industry between 1997 and 1998 was farming, which more than doubled. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 3.8%.

Positives: Close to the average county for many indicators of child well-being.

Concerns: Higher than average percentage of children in low-income families, and school transfers.

Trends to Watch: Decrease in school transfers.

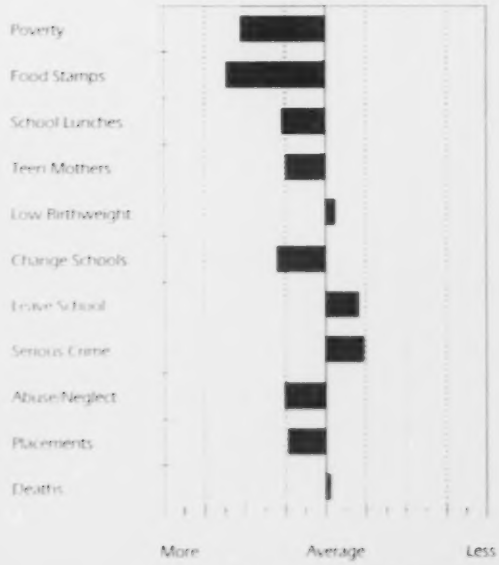


Demographics

Estimated population, 1999	30,787
Estimated number of children, 1999	8,594
Estimated % of children, 1999	27.9%
Estimated number of children, 1991	9,711
% change in number of children, 1991-99	-11.5%
Projected population, 2010	31,660
Projected number of children, 2010	8,000

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Polk County



Compared to the Average County 1999

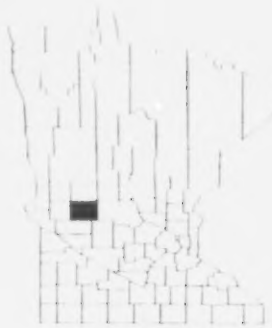
(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	2,318	25%	1,635	18%±4	1,776	20.1±5	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			2,366	26%	1,143	13%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	2,132	33%	2,352	35%	2,176	37%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	12		13	22	18	17	1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	23	5%	19	5%	18	5%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			1,119	17%	833	14%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			50	12%	37	8%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	65	17	77	19	41	10	15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	147	15	157	17	82	10	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	159	16	158	16	172	20	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	2		1		1		84	1.5

(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

Pope

Pope County is a moderately small county located in west central Minnesota. The county seat is Glenwood. Pope County's 1998 per capita personal income of $20,792 ranked sixty-third among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in the county in 1998 were state and local government, services, and durable goods manufacturing. The fastest growing industry in Pope County was farming, which increased over 30% between 1997 and 1998. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 3.1%.



Positives: Lower than average teen birth rate, school transfers and children not graduating on time.

Concerns: Higher than average percentage of students receiving free/reduced-price school lunch, and substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect.

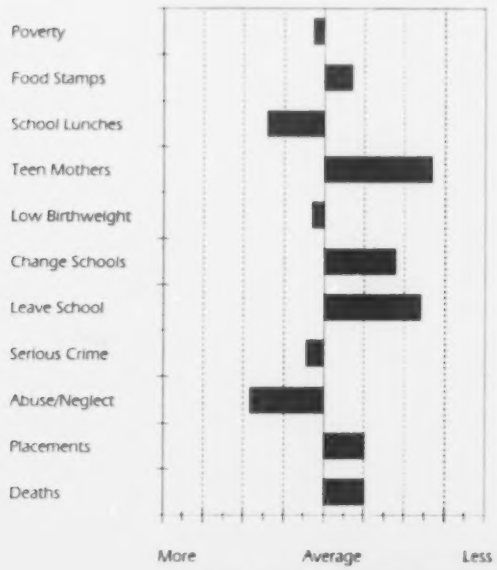
Trends to Watch: Decrease in percentage of children receiving food stamps.

Demographics

Estimated population, 1999	10,886
Estimated number of children, 1999	2,954
Estimated % of children, 1999	27.1%
Estimated number of children, 1991	2,951
% change in number of children, 1991-99	0.1%
Projected population, 2010	10,510
Projected number of children, 2010	1,840

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Pope County



Compared to the Average County 1999

(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	593	20%	426	14%±3	468	15.4±4	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			272	9%	179	6%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	631	33%	800	40%	696	39%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	2		0		1		1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	6	5%	5	6%	6	6%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			111	6%	131	7%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			1	1%	2	2%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	38	30	16	12	28	20	15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	25	8	12	4	33	11	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	20	7	27	9	30	10	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0		0		1		84	1.5

(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

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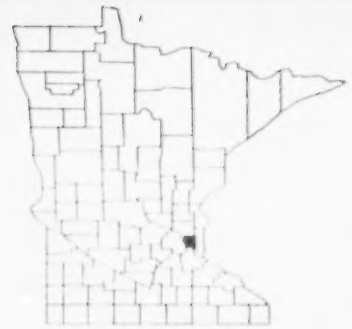
Ramsey

Ramsey County, the second largest county in Minnesota, is part of the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Statistical Area. The county seat is St. Paul. The county is ethnically and racially diverse; in 1999-00, over 16% of students in the county had limited English proficiency, compared to 8.5% in 1991-92. The 1998 per capita personal income of $32,863 was the second highest in the state. The largest industries were services, non-durable goods manufacturing, and state and local government. Finance, insurance and real estate was the fastest growing industry, increasing by almost 13% between 1997 and 1998. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 2.3%.

Positives: Lower than average rate of child deaths.

Concerns: Higher than average percentage of low-income children, teen births, children born at low birth weight, school transfers, children not graduating on time, arrests for serious crime, and substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect.

Trends to Watch: Decrease in children not graduating on time and arrest rate for serious crime, and increase in out-of-home placements.

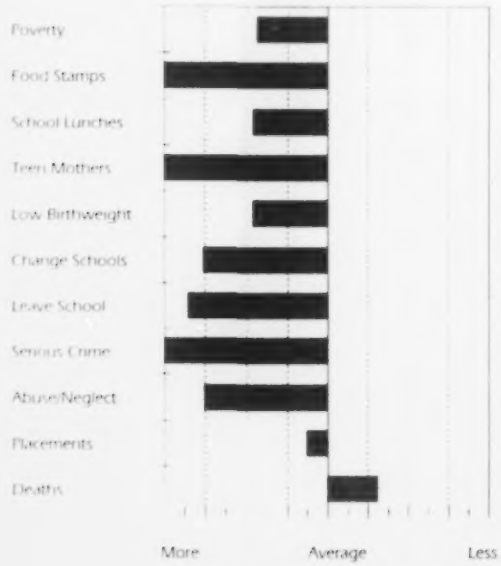


Demographics

Estimated population, 1999	486,254
Estimated number of children, 1999	121,408
Estimated % of children, 1999	25.0%
Estimated number of children, 1991	126,924
% change in number of children, 1991-99	-4.3%
Projected population, 2010	504,920
Projected number of children, 2010	121,050

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Ramsey County



Compared to the Average County 1999

(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	21,392	18%	20,838	17%±4	23,613	19.2±5	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			30,019	25%	24,395	20%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	22,255	31%	29,064	36%	36,176	41%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	320		326	38	361	35	1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	485	6%	491	7%	570	8%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			15,167	19%	15,494	18%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			1,259	26%	1,165	23%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	2,767	63	3,385	71	2,431	49	15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	1,233	10	1,411	12	1,646	14	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	1,545	12	1,710	13	2,167	18	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	13		15		11		84	1.5

(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

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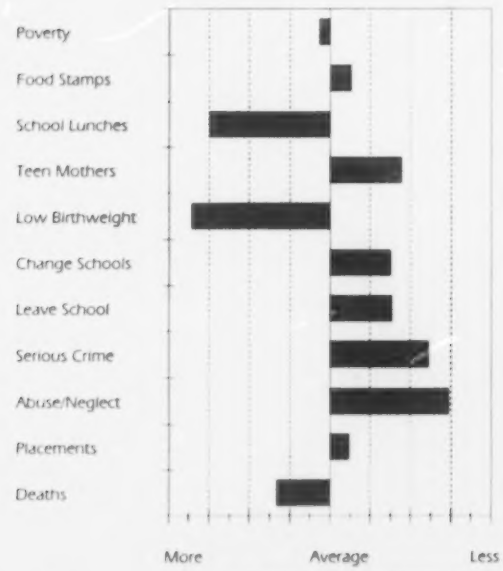
Red Lake

Demographics

Estimated population, 1999	4,202
Estimated number of children, 1999	1,241
Estimated % of children, 1999	29.5%
Estimated number of children, 1991	1,359
% change in number of children, 1991-99	-8.7%
Projected population, 2010	4,030
Projected number of children, 2010	1,000

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Red Lake County



Compared to the Average County 1999

(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

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Red Lake County is the second smallest county in the state. It is located in northwestern Minnesota. The county seat is Red Lake Falls. The county's 1998 per capita personal income of $18,303 was the fourth lowest among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in Red Lake County in 1998 were state and local government, services, and transportation and public utilities. Farming was the county's fastest growing industry, more than doubling between 1997 and 1998. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 9.4%.

Positives: Lower than average percentage of teen births, school transfers, children not graduating from school, and arrest rate for serious crime, substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect.

Concerns: Higher than average percentage of children receiving free/reduced-price school lunch, children born at low birth weight, and child deaths.

Trends to Watch: Decrease in percentage of children receiving food stamps.

	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	269	19%	181	14%±3	199	15.4±4	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			136	11%	80	6%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	469	46%	511	51%	400	48%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	1		0		0		1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	3	7%	1	2%	4	9%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			76	8%	67	8%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			5	6%	4	5%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	1		0		0	-	15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	3		2		2		11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	8		11	8	16	13	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0		0		0		84	1.5

(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

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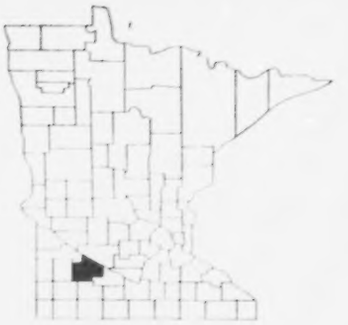
Children's Defense Fund of MN, 200 University Ave. W., Suite 210, St. Paul, MN 55103; 651/227-6121; www.cdf-mn.org

Redwood

Redwood County is a mid-size county located in southwestern Minnesota along the Minnesota River. The county seat is Redwood Falls. The Lower Sioux Indian Reservation (http://www.indians.state.mn.us/low-sioux.html) lies on its border. Its 1998 per capita personal income of $23,347 ranked twenty-eighth in the state. The largest industries in the county in 1998 were services, durable goods manufacturing, and state and local government. Construction was the fastest growing industry between 1997 and 1998, increasing by almost 8%. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 2.9%.



Positives: Lower than average percentage of children born at low birth weight, school transfers, and children not graduating from school on time, substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect.

Concerns: Higher than average rate of child deaths.

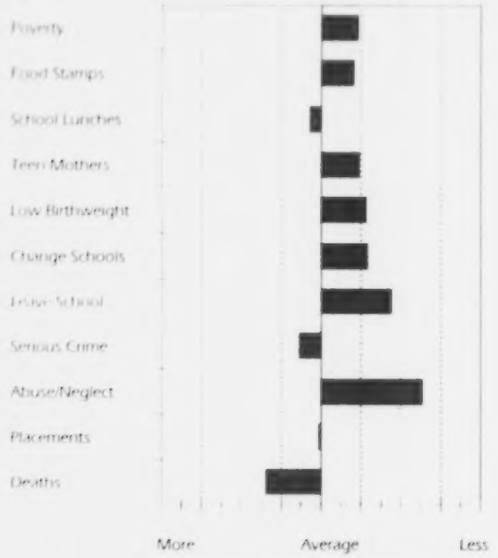
Trends to Watch: No clear trends are apparent in this data.

Demographics

Estimated population, 1999	16,421
Estimated number of children, 1999	4,561
Estimated % of children, 1999	27.8%
Estimated number of children, 1991	4,869
% change in number of children, 1991-99	-6.3%
Projected population, 2010	16,100
Projected number of children, 2010	4,040

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Redwood County



Compared to the Average County 1999

(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	741	15%	553	12%±3	583	12.4±3	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			344	7%	263	6%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	875	28%	962	28%	1,110	32%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	2		6	15	4	11	1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	5	2%	10	5%	9	5%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			359	10%	304	8%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			12	5%	10	4%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	37	18	72	33	45	21	15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	23	5	15	3	11	2	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	55	11	70	14	71	16	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0		1		2		84	1.5

(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

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Renville

Renville County is a mid-sized county in south central Minnesota whose county seat is Olivia. The Upper Sioux Indian Reservation lies along its border. During the summer months, the county's population includes migrant farm workers and their children. In 1999-00, about 6% of students had limited English proficiency, compared to just about 1% in 1991-92. Its 1998 per capita personal income of $21,857 ranked forty-eighth in the state. The largest industries in 1998 were farming, services, and state and local government. Transportation and public utilities was the fastest growing industry, increasing by almost 13% from 1997 to 1998. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 4.7%.

Positives: Lower than average percentage of children not graduating on time, arrests for serious crime, and substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect.

Concerns: Higher than average percentage of children receiving food stamps, teen birth rate, and school transfers.

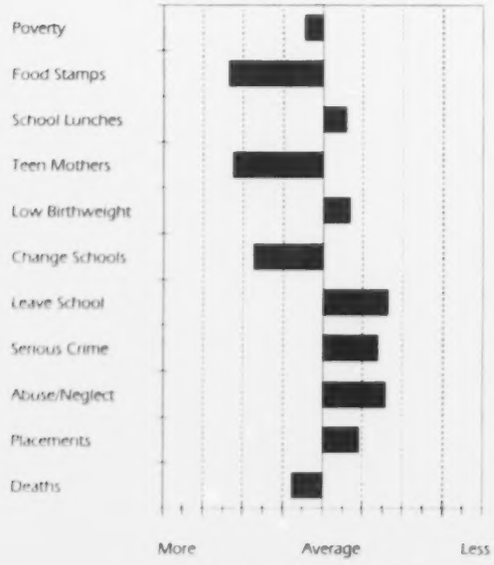
Trends to Watch: Decrease in percentage of children receiving food stamps.

Demographics

Estimated population, 1999	16,808
Estimated number of children, 1999	4,602
Estimated % of children, 1999	27.4%
Estimated number of children, 1991	5,006
% change in number of children, 1991-99	-8.1%
Projected population, 2010	16,180
Projected number of children, 2010	4,090

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Renville County



Compared to the Average County 1999

(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	1,013	20%	773	16%±4	751	15.9±4	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			1,091	23%	601	13%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	821	24%	706	26%	734	27%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	5		9	20	11	22	1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	3	1%	14	7%	10	5%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			403	15%	399	15%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			11	6%	10	5%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	2		9		16	7	15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	28	6	56	12	20	4	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	56	11	53	11	49	11	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	2		1		0		84	1.5

(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

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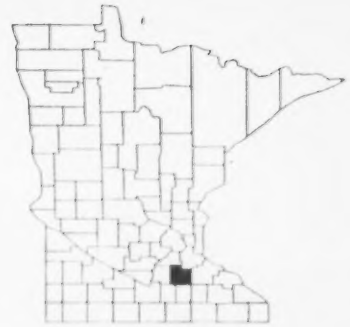
Rice

Rice County is located in the southeast region of Minnesota. In 1999-00, over 4% of students in the county had limited English proficiency, compared to about 2% in 1991-92. The county seat is Faribault. It is the fourteenth largest county in the state, and ranked thirty-eighth among Minnesota counties with its 1998 per capita personal income of $22,421. The largest industries were services, state and local government, and durable goods manufacturing. Durable goods manufacturing was the fastest growing industry, increasing by over 13% from 1997 to 1998. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 2.9%.

Positives: Lower than average percentage of low-income children, out-of-home placements and child deaths.

Concerns: Higher than average arrest rate for serious crime, substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect.

Trends to Watch: Decrease in percentage of children receiving food stamps.

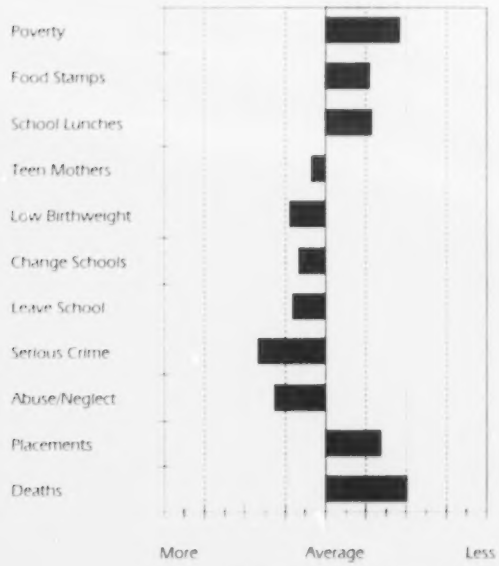


Demographics

Estimated population, 1999	54,988
Estimated number of children, 1999	14,221
Estimated % of children, 1999	25.9%
Estimated number of children, 1991	13,371
% change in number of children, 1991-99	6.4%
Projected population, 2010	57,290
Projected number of children, 2010	15,570

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Rice County



Compared to the Average County 1999

(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

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	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	1,187	9%	1,177	9%±2	1,436	10.1±3	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			1,110	8%	733	5%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	1,642	21%	1,816	23%	1,972	24%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	18		18	19	20	15	1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	26	4%	32	6%	44	7%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			954	12%	1,020	13%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			89	16%	84	14%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	128	23	226	37	187	28	15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	23	2	120	9	143	10	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	121	9	98	7	118	8	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	3		1		3		84	1.5

(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

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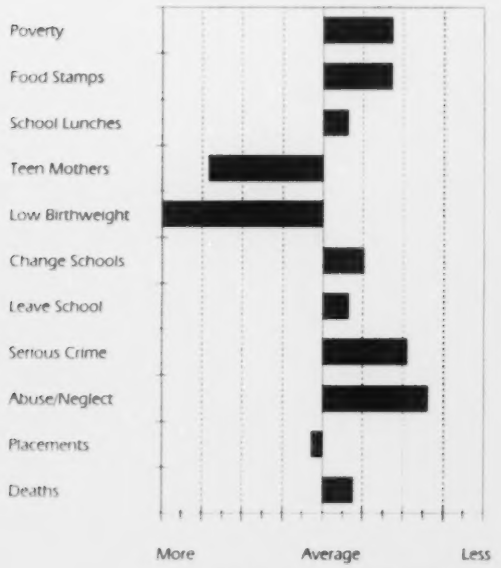
Rock

Demographics

Estimated population, 1999	9,619
Estimated number of children, 1999	2,645
Estimated % of children, 1999	27.5%
Estimated number of children, 1991	2,784
% change in number of children, 1991-99	-5.0%
Projected population, 2010	8,910
Projected number of children, 2010	2,010

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Rock County



Compared to the Average County 1999

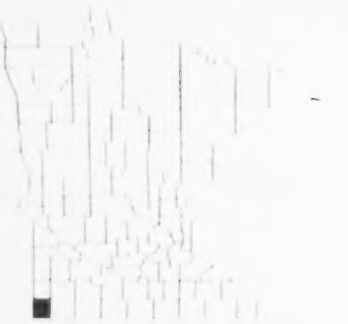
(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

Rock County is the fifteenth smallest county and is located in the southwest corner of Minnesota, bordering South Dakota and Iowa. The county seat is Luverne. Rock County's per capita personal income of $22,271 ranked fortieth among Minnesota counties in 1998. The largest industries in the county in 1998 were state and local government, services, and farming. State and local government was the fastest growing industry from 1997 to 1998, increasing at a rate of over 7%. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 2.9%.

Positives: Lower than average percentage of low-income children, arrest rate for serious crime, and substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect.

Concerns: Higher than average teen birth rate and percentage of children born at low birth weight.

Trends to Watch: Increase in percentage of low birth weight babies.



	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	365	13%	310	11%±3	285	10.4±3	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			194	7%	99	4%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	486	26%	531	29%	464	27%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	3		3	13	4	24	1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	2	2%	2	2%	11	10%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			153	8%	154	9%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			8	6%	11	8%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	0		0		3		15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	11	4	24	9	6		11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	11	4	47	17	44	17	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0		0		0		84	1.5

(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

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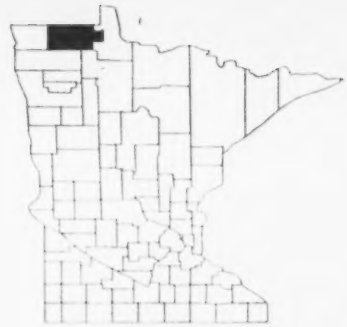
Roseau

Roseau County is a mid-size county in northern Minnesota. The county seat is Roseau. The county had a 1998 per capita personal income of $21,690. This ranked Roseau fifty-third among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in Roseau County in 1998 were durable goods manufacturing, services, and state and local government. Services was the fastest growing industry in the county, which increased by over 10% between 1997 and 1998. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 4.1%.



Positives: Lower than average percentage of children in low-income families, arrest rate for serious crime, substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect, and out-of-home placements.

Concerns: Higher than average child death rate.

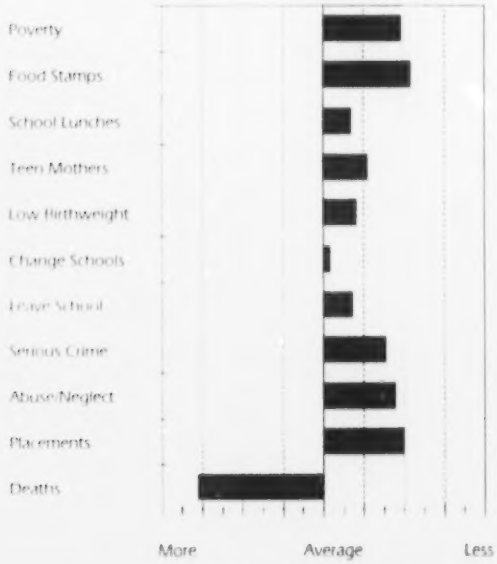
Trends to Watch: Increase in school transfers.

Demographics

Estimated population, 1999	16,085
Estimated number of children, 1999	5,042
Estimated % of children, 1999	31.3%
Estimated number of children, 1991	4,801
% change in number of children, 1991-99	5.0%
Projected population, 2010	17,600
Projected number of children, 2010	5,210

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Roseau County



Compared to the Average County 1999

(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	511	11%	414	8%±2	507	9.9±3	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			203	4%	136	3%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	979	29%	1,146	29%	985	27%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	5		10	24	3	10	1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	11	5%	17	6%	10	5%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			316	8%	409	11%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			8	3%	20	8%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	21	11	26	12	14	6	15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	16	3	14	3	20	4	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	25	5	31	6	26	5	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	3		2		0		84	1.5

(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

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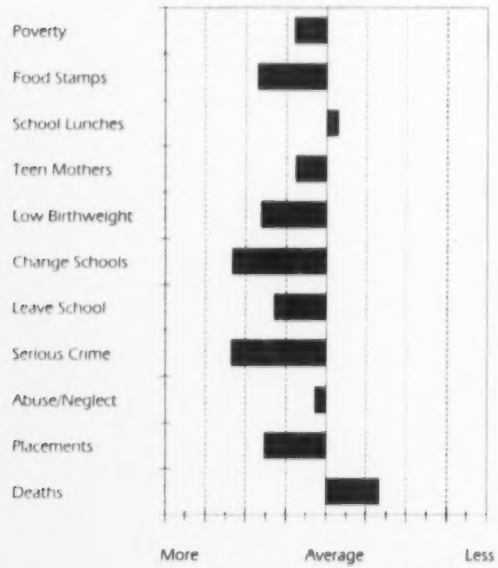
St. Louis

Demographics

Estimated population, 1999 193,433
Estimated number of children, 1999 46,810
Estimated % of children, 1999 ..... 24.2%
Estimated number of children, 1991 48,955
% change in number of children, 1991-99 ..... -4.4%
Projected population, 2010 194,170
Projected number of children, 2010 45,890
(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in St. Louis County



Compared to the Average County 1999
(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

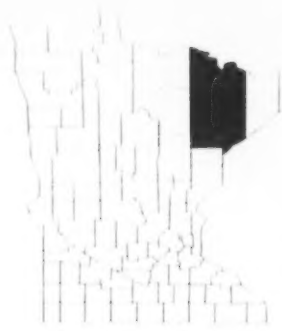
214

St. Louis County, the sixth largest county in the state, is located on Lake Superior in northeast Minnesota, part of the Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Statistical Area. The county seat is Duluth. Portions of the Fond du Lac Indian Reservation are located in the county. Its 1998 per capita personal income was $25,630, the thirteenth highest in the state. The largest industries in 1998 were services, state and local government, and transportation and public utilities. The fastest growing industry was services, which increased over 13% between 1997 and 1998. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 4%.

Positives: Lower than average rate of child deaths.

Concerns: Higher than average percentage of children receiving food stamps, children born at low birth weight, school transfers, children not graduating on time, arrests for serious crimes, and out-of-home placements.

Trends to Watch: Decreases in percentage of children receiving food stamps, and out-of-home placements.



	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	9,087	19%	7,661	16%±3	7,936	16.8±4	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			7,685	16%	5,424	12%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	8,432	24%	8,268	25%	8,933	29%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	69		74	19	67	17	1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	106	5%	128	6%	146	7%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			5,013	15%	5,160	16%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			414	17%	381	15%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	786	37	965	43	761	33	15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	510	10	373	8	376	8	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	1,400	29	1,459	30	1,081	23	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	11		5		6		84	1.5

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(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

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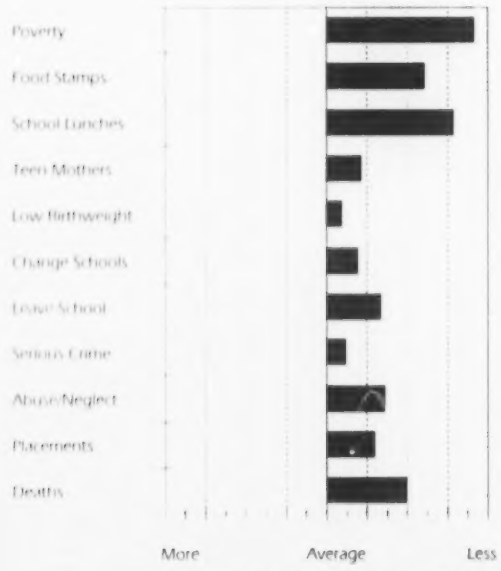
Scott

Demographics

Estimated population, 1999 82,994
Estimated number of children, 1999 25,649
Estimated % of children, 1999 ..... 30.9%
Estimated number of children, 1991 18,916
% change in number of children, 1991-99 ..... 35.6%
Projected population, 2010 96,060
Projected number of children, 2010 27,310
(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Scott County



Compared to the Average County 1999
(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

Scott County comprises the southwest edge of the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Statistical Area and is the tenth largest county in Minnesota. The county seat is Shakopee. The Shakopee Mdewakanton Reservation (http://www.indians.state.mn.us/shakopee.html) is located within the county. Scott County's per capita personal income of $29,049 ranked seventh in the state. Services, construction, and durable goods manufacturing were the largest industries in 1998. Durable goods manufacturing was the fastest growing industry, increasing by 48% since 1997. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 2.3%.

Positives: Lower than average percentage of low-income children, children not graduating on time, out-of-home placements, and child deaths.

Concerns: None based on these indicators.

Trends to Watch: Increase in out-of-home placements.

	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	854	5%	1,023	5%±1	1367	5.5±2	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			895	4%	532	2%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	1255	12%	1401	12%	1694	13%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	19		21	15	23	11	1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	57	5%	60	5%	81	5%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			1081	10%	1175	9%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			39	5%	45	6%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	198	28	205	23	150	14	15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	140	7	142	7	118	5	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	101	5	116	6	237	9	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	3		5		1		84	1.5

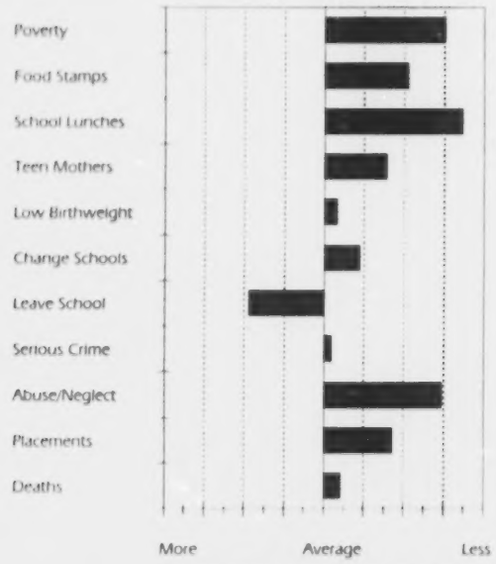
(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

Sherburne

Demographics

Estimated population, 1999 63,356
Estimated number of children, 1999 20,155
Estimated % of children, 1999 ..... 31.8%
Estimated number of children, 1991 14,073
% change in number of children, 1991-99 ..... 43.2%
Projected population, 2010 77,030
Projected number of children, 2010 23,630
(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Sherburne County



Compared to the Average County 1999
(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

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Sherburne County is located in central Minnesota, on the northern edge of the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Statistical Area. The county seat is Elk River. It is the twelfth largest county in Minnesota, and had a per capita personal income of $22,248 in 1998, ranking forty-first among Minnesota counties. The county's largest industries were state and local government, durable goods manufacturing, and services. Construction was the fastest growing industry between 1997 and 1998, increasing by almost 17%. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 2.7%.

Positives: Lower than average percentage of low-income children, substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect, and out-of-home placements.

Concerns: Higher than average percentage of children not graduating on time.

Trends to Watch: Increase in out-of-home placements.

	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	1,016	8%	1,155	6%±2	1,391	7.1±2	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			1,037	6%	563	3%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	1,293	14%	1,507	14%	1,453	11%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	6		14	15	12	9	1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	36	5%	47	6%	54	5%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			1,021	9%	1,159	9%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			127	19%	131	17%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	121	21	222	30	145	16	15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	41	3	53	3	32	2	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	63	4	82	6	134	7	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	2		1		2		84	1.5

219

(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

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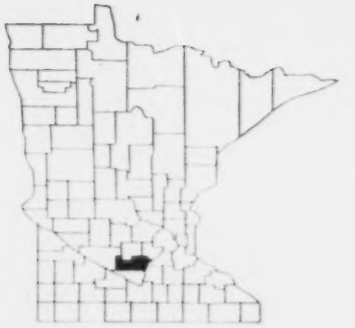
Sibley

Sibley County is a moderately small county located in south central Minnesota. The county seat is Gaylord. In 1999-00, over 3% of students in the county had limited English proficiency, compared to less than .5% in 1991-92. The county had a 1998 per capita personal income of $19,591. This ranked the county thirteenth lowest among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in the county in 1998 were state and local government, services, and construction. Farming was the fastest growing industry, more than doubling from 1997 to 1998. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 4%.



Positives: Lower than average arrest rate for serious crime, out-of-home placements, and child deaths.

Concerns: None based on these indicators.

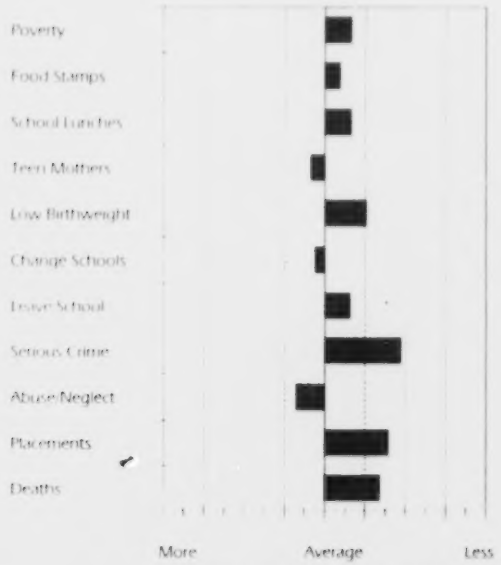
Trends to Watch: Increase in percentage of children receiving free/reduced-price school lunch.

Demographics

Estimated population, 1999	14,774
Estimated number of children, 1999	4,150
Estimated % of children, 1999	28.1%
Estimated number of children, 1991	4,112
% change in number of children, 1991-99	0.9%
Projected population, 2010	14,170
Projected number of children, 2010	3,470

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Sibley County



Compared to the Average County 1999

(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	570	14%	497	12%±3	552	13.1±4	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			326	8%	282	7%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	483	21%	628	25%	680	27%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	3		2	13	2	15	1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	9	5%	6	4%	9	5%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			282	12%	274	12%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			16	9%	16	8%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	3		1		8		15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	37	9	53	13	37	9	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	25	6	24	6	30	7	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0		1		0		84	1.5

(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

220

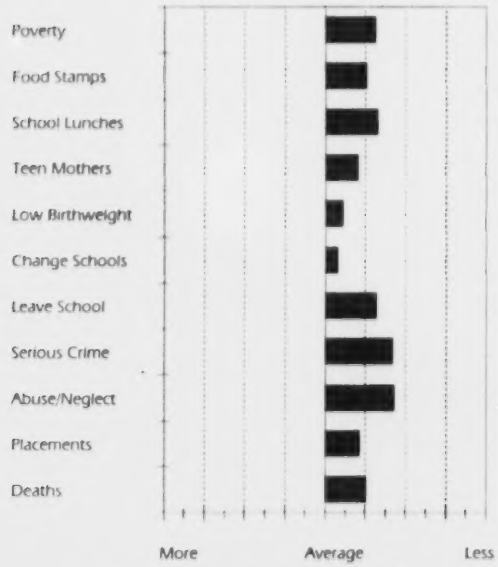
221

Stearns

Demographics

Estimated population, 1999 130,081
Estimated number of children, 1999 35,884
Estimated % of children, 1999 ..... 27.6%
Estimated number of children, 1991 34,204
% change in number of children, 1991-99 ..... 4.9%
Projected population, 2010 142,480
Projected number of children, 2010 41,030
(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Stearns County



Compared to the Average County 1999
(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

222

Stearns County is located in central Minnesota and is part of the St. Cloud Metropolitan Statistical Area. It is the seventh largest county in Minnesota. The county seat is St. Cloud. Stearns County's per capita personal income of $22,747 ranked thirty-fourth among Minnesota counties. Its largest industries in 1998 were services, retail trade, and state and local government. Retail trade was the fastest growing industry, increasing more than 43% from 1997 and 1998. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 3%.

Positives: Lower than average percentage of low-income children, children not graduating on time, arrests for serious crime, substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect.

Concerns: None based on these indicators.

Trends to Watch: Increase in serious crime arrest rate.

	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	4,313	13%	3,623	10%±2	4,198	11.6±3	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			2,721	8%	1,880	5%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	5,347	23%	5,542	23%	5,666	23%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	28		40	15	36	11	1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	94	6%	78	5%	91	5%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			2,352	9%	2,485	10%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			221	12%	104	6%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	674	49	619	39	87	5	15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	106	3	141	4	145	4	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	277	8	357	10	394	11	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	7		4		4		84	1.5

(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

223

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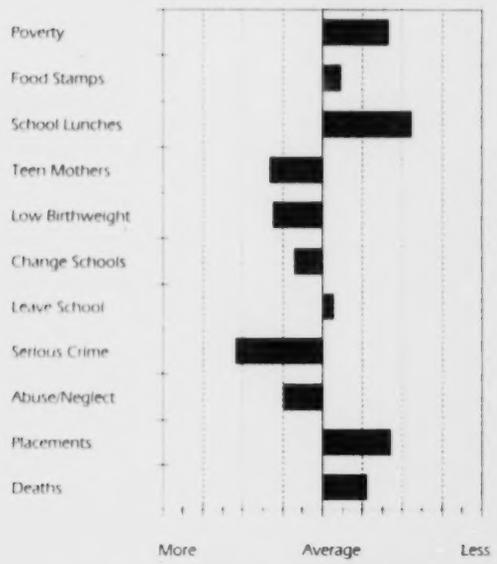
Steele

Demographics

Estimated population, 1999 32,061
Estimated number of children, 1999 9,132
Estimated % of children, 1999 ..... 28.5%
Estimated number of children, 1991 9,130
% change in number of children, 1991-99 ..... 0.0%
Projected population, 2010 32,830
Projected number of children, 2010 8,440
(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Steele County



Compared to the Average County 1999
(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

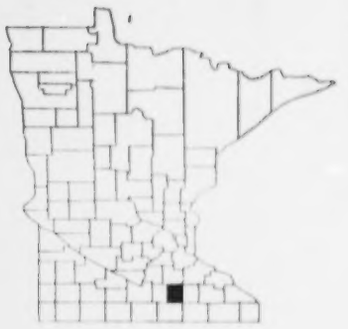
224

Steele County, in southeast Minnesota, is the twenty-seventh largest county in the state. The county seat is Owatonna. During the summer months, the population includes migrant farm workers and their children. In 1999-00, over 3% of students in the county had limited English proficiency, compared to less than 2% in 1991-92. Its 1998 per capita personal income of $27,371 was the eighth highest in the state. The largest industries were durable goods manufacturing; services; and finance, insurance, and real estate. Retail trade was the fastest growing sector, increasing over 23% between 1997 and 1998. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 2.5%.

Positives: Lower than average percentage of low-income children, out-of-home placements and child deaths.

Concerns: Higher than average teen birth rate, percentage of children born at low birth weight, and arrests for serious crime.

Trends to Watch: Decrease in percentage of children receiving free/reduced-price school lunch.



	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	748	8%	720	8%±2	978	10.6±3	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			714	8%	603	7%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	1,244	19%	1,289	21%	1,158	18%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	5		16	18	15	19	1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	18	4%	29	7%	30	7%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			708	11%	799	13%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			46	10%	43	10%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	75	20	92	23	135	32	15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	100	11	75	8	86	9	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	57	6	99	11	60	7	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	2		3		1		84	1.5

(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

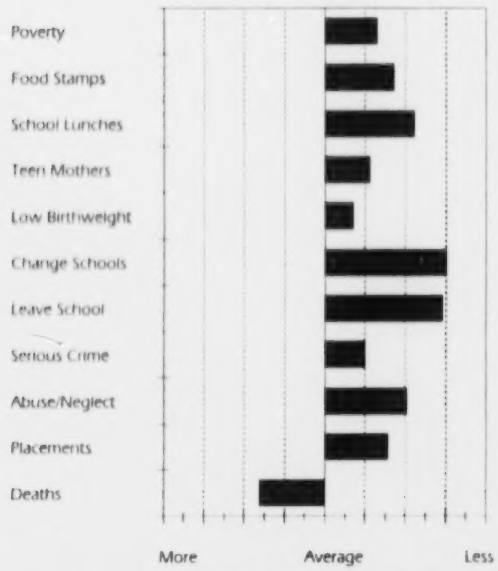
225

Stevens

Demographics

Estimated population, 1999 9,973
Estimated number of children, 1999 2,307
Estimated % of children, 1999 ..... 23.1%
Estimated number of children, 1991 2,527
% change in number of children, 1991-99 ..... -8.7%
Projected population, 2010 10,590
Projected number of children, 2010 2,840
(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Stevens County



Compared to the Average County 1999
(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

Stevens County is located in west central Minnesota and is the seventeenth smallest county in the state. The county seat is Morris. In 1998, Stevens County had a per capita personal income of $22,992. This ranked the county thirty-first among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in Stevens County in 1998 were state and local government, services, and durable goods manufacturing. The county's fastest growing industry was durable goods manufacturing, which more than doubled between 1997 and 1998. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 2.9%.

Positives: Lower than average percentage of low-income children, teen birth rate, school transfers, children not graduating on time, out-of-home placements, and substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect.

Concerns: Higher than average child death rate.

Trends to Watch: Decrease in percentage of children receiving free/reduced-price school lunch.

	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	371	15%	272	11%±3	271	11.5±3	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			159	6%	86	4%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	477	26%	443	24%	295	18%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	3		0		2		1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	3	3%	5	5%	6	5%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			113	5%	73	4%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			4	3%	0	0%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	18	17	38	33	11	10	15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	5		6		8		11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	15	6	18	7	17	7	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0		1		2		84	1.5

(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

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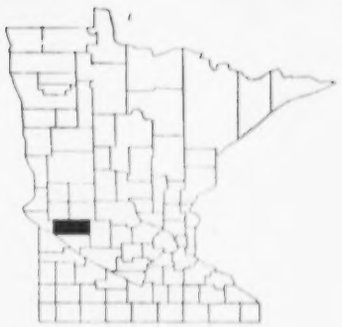
Swift

Swift County is a moderately small county located in west central Minnesota. The county seat is Benson. The county's 1998 per capita personal income was $20,500, which ranked sixty-fifth among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in Swift County in 1998 were durable goods manufacturing, services, and state and local government. Farming was the fastest growing industry in the county, increasing by 17.5% between 1997 and 1998. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 3.9%.

Positives: Lower than average percentage of school transfers, children not graduating on time.

Concerns: Higher than average child death rate.

Trends to Watch: Increase in out of home placements.

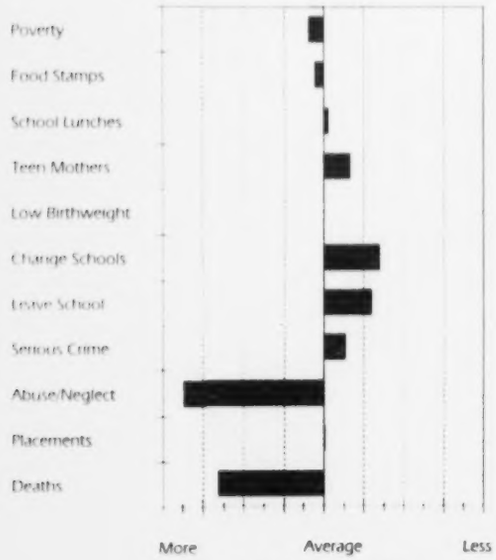


Demographics

Estimated population, 1999	11,344
Estimated number of children, 1999	2,766
Estimated % of children, 1999	24.4%
Estimated number of children, 1991	2,894
% change in number of children, 1991-99	-4.4%
Projected population, 2010	11,060
Projected number of children, 2010	2,500

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Swift County



Compared to the Average County 1999

(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	499	18%	400	14%±3	446	15.7±4	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			312	11%	225	8%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	725	34%	683	32%	557	30%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	1		5	13	4		1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	3	2%	6	6%	7	6%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			167	9%	151	8%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			7	5%	8	6%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	28	21	16	11	19	13	15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	28	10	66	24	40	14	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	20	7	30	10	42	15	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	2		1		0		84	1.5

(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

228

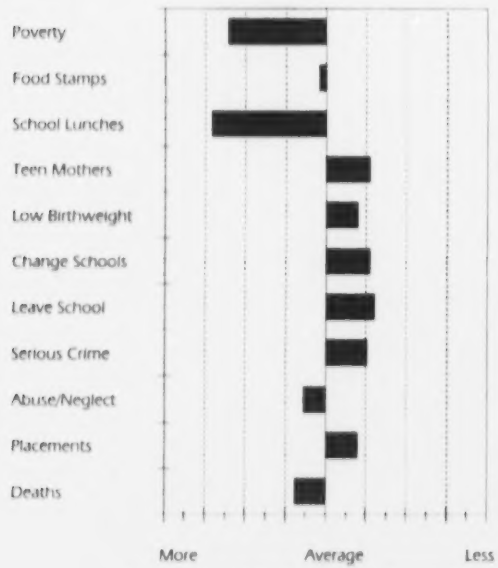
229

Todd

Demographics

Estimated population, 1999 24,240
Estimated number of children, 1999 7,338
Estimated % of children, 1999 ..... 30.3%
Estimated number of children, 1991 7,143
% change in number of children, 1991-99 ..... 2.7%
Projected population, 2010 22,670
Projected number of children, 2010 5,970
(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Todd County



Compared to the Average County 1999
(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

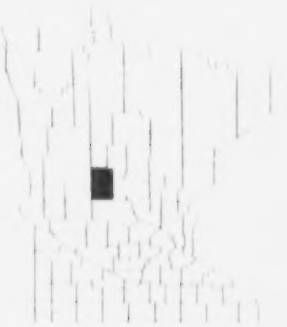
230

Todd County is a mid-size county located in the central portion of Minnesota. The county seat is Long Prairie. The county's 1998 per capita personal income of $16,584 was the second lowest among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in the county in 1998 were non-durable goods manufacturing, state and local government, and services. Construction was the fastest growing industry in Todd County, increasing 11% between 1997 and 1998. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 5.2%.

Positives: Lower than average percentage of children not graduating on time.

Concerns: Higher than average percentage of low-income children.

Trends to Watch: Decrease in percentage of children receiving free/reduced-price school lunch, increase in out-of-home placements.



	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	1,698	23%	1,335	18%±4	1,554	20.9±6	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			909	13%	589	8%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	2,268	46%	2,295	46%	2,164	47%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	13		9	18	6	10	1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	20	6%	17	7%	13	5%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			334	9%	404	9%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			19	5%	21	6%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	43	13	45	13	36	10	15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	43	6	34	5	63	9	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	40	6	76	11	82	11	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0		2		2		84	1.5

231

(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

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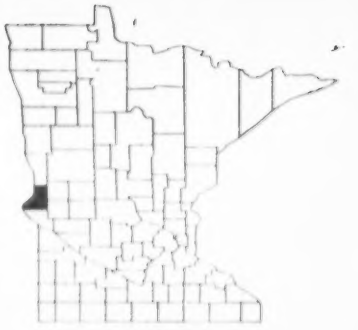
Traverse

Traverse County is located in the west central part of the state on the South Dakota border. The county seat is Wheaton. It is the second smallest county in Minnesota. The county's 1998 per capita personal income of $22,240 ranked forty-second among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in the county in 1998 were state and local government, services, and durable goods manufacturing. Between 1997 and 1998, the fastest growing industry in Traverse County was construction. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 5.8%.

Positives: Higher than average rate of teen births, children not graduating on time, arrests for violent crime, out-of-home placements and child deaths.

Concerns: Higher than average percentage of low-income children, and substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect.

Trends to Watch: Increase in percentage of children receiving free/reduced-price school lunch, decrease in percentage of children receiving food stamps.

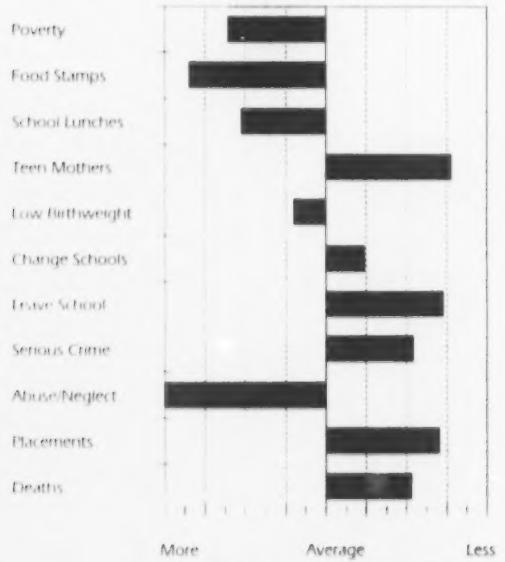


Demographics

Estimated population, 1999	4,168
Estimated number of children, 1999	1,049
Estimated % of children, 1999	25.2%
Estimated number of children, 1991	1,146
% change in number of children, 1991-99	-8.5%
Projected population, 2010	3,760
Projected number of children, 2010	910

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Traverse County



Compared to the Average County 1999

(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	267	22%	210	18%±4	232	20.9±6	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			232	21%	162	15%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	315	38%	289	39%	300	43%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	0		0		1		1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	3	6%	1	2%	2	6%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			77	10%	62	9%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			2	4%	0	0%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	9		0		1		15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	10	9	16	14	18	17	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	9		0		1		12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0		0		0		84	1.5

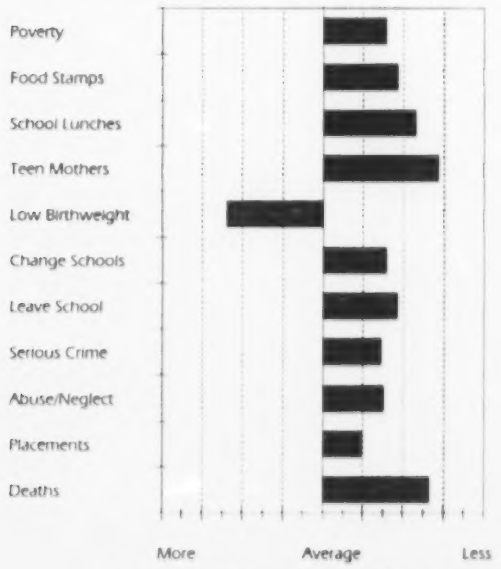
(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

Wabasha

Demographics

Estimated population, 1999 21,140
Estimated number of children, 1999 5,983
Estimated % of children, 1999 ..... 28.3%
Estimated number of children, 1991 5,782
% change in number of children, 1991-99 ..... 3.5%
Projected population, 2010 20,600
Projected number of children, 2010 5,190
(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Wabasha County



Compared to the Average County 1999
(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

234

Wabasha County is a mid-size county located in southeast Minnesota along the Mississippi River. The county seat is Wabasha. The county's 1998 per capita personal income of $24,176 ranked nineteenth among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in the county in 1998 were durable goods manufacturing, services, and state and local government. Farming was the fastest growing industry, more than doubling between 1997 and 1998. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 2.4%.

Positives: Lower than average county for most indicators of child well-being.

Concerns: Higher than average percentage of children born at low birth weight.

Trends to Watch: Decrease in teen birth rate.

	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	582	10%	512	9%±2	655	10.8±3	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			336	6%	202	3%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	869	20%	835	20%	967	18%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	6		6	10	4		1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	8	3%	17	7%	17	8%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			330	8%	406	8%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			12	4%	12	4%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	22	9	18	7	19	7	15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	36	6	18	3	27	5	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	51	9	84	15	62	10	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0		0		1		84	1.5

(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

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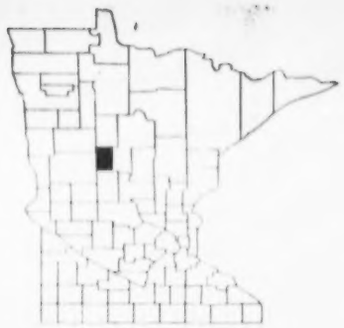
Wadena

Wadena County is a moderately small county in the north central portion of Minnesota. The county seat is Wadena. Wadena County's 1998 per capita personal income of $18,947 ranked seventh lowest among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in 1998 were services, state and local government, and durable goods manufacturing. The fastest growing industry in the county was services, which increased by over 16% between 1997 and 1998. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 5.4%.



Positives: Lower than average percentage of children born at low birth weight and children not graduating on time.

Concerns: Higher than average percentage of low-income children, substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect, and child death rate.

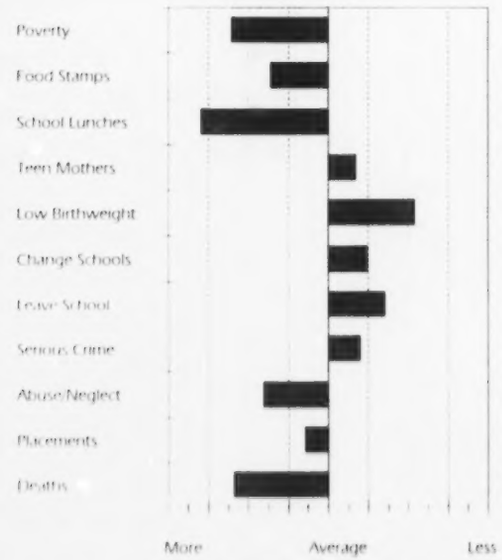
Trends to Watch: Increase in percentage of children receiving free/reduced-price school lunch, decrease in percentage of children receiving food stamps.

Demographics

Estimated population, 1999	13,238
Estimated number of children, 1999	3,621
Estimated % of children, 1999	27.4%
Estimated number of children, 1991	3,691
% change in number of children, 1991-99	-1.9%
Projected population, 2010	13,410
Projected number of children, 2010	3,280

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Wadena County



Compared to the Average County 1999

(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

236

	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	899	24%	735	20%±5	762	20.9±6	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			562	15%	398	11%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	1,379	46%	1,491	45%	1,575	49%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	5		4	19	3	12	1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	6	3%	5	3%	6	3%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			377	12%	287	9%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			15	7%	13	5%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	46	29	61	36	20	11	15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	89	24	35	10	39	11	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	78	21	54	15	66	18	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	1		0		0		84	1.5

(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

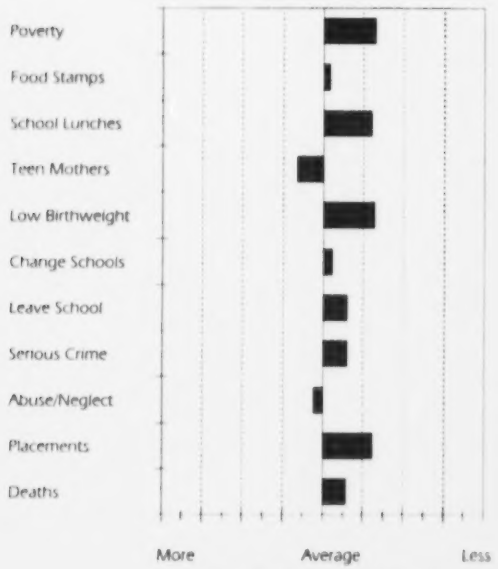
237

Waseca

Demographics

Estimated population, 1999 18,560
Estimated number of children, 1999 5,250
Estimated % of children, 1999 ..... 28.3%
Estimated number of children, 1991 5,302
% change in number of children, 1991-99 ..... -1.0%
Projected population, 2010 17,410
Projected number of children, 2010 4,230
(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Waseca County



Compared to the Average County 1999
(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

238

Waseca County is a mid- size county located in the southeast portion of Minnesota. The county seat is Waseca. The county's per capita personal income of $22,433 ranked thirty-seventh among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in the county in 1998 were non-durable goods manufacturing, durable goods manufacturing, and services. Services was the fastest growing industry in Waseca County, increasing by 11.5% from 1997 to 1998. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 3.2%.

Positives: Lower than average percentage of low-income children, children born at low birth weight, and out-of-home placements.

Concerns: None based on this data.

Trends to Watch: Decrease in percentage of children receiving free/reduced-price school lunch.

	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	562	11%	494	9%±2	615	11.5±3	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			360	7%	382	7%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	1,218	32%	1,117	26%	931	24%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	4		4	16	5	16	1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	11	5%	9	4%	11	4%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			373	9%	424	11%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			27	8%	28	8%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	23	10	15	6	32	13	15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	38	7	12	2	42	8	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	53	10	45	9	47	9	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	1		1		2		84	1.5

(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

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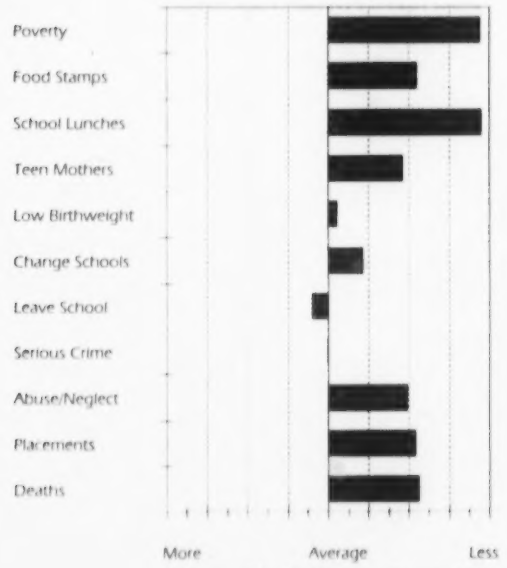
Washington

Demographics

Estimated population, 1999	202,606
Estimated number of children, 1999	60,221
Estimated % of children, 1999	29.7%
Estimated number of children, 1991	47,156
% change in number of children, 1991-99	27.7%
Projected population, 2010	237,890
Projected number of children, 2010	63,480

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Washington County

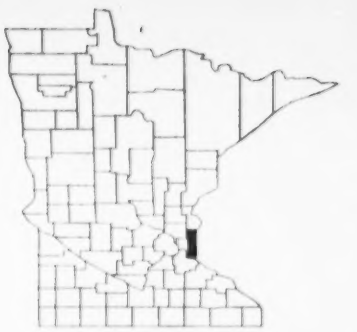


Compared to the Average County 1999

(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

240

Washington County is in the eastern part of the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Area and borders Wisconsin. The county seat is Stillwater. Washington County is the fifth largest county in Minnesota. Its 1998 per capita personal income of $30,399 was the sixth highest in the state. Durable goods manufacturing, services, and state and local government were the largest industries in 1998. The fastest growing industry was finance, insurance and real estate, which increased almost 23% between 1997 and 1998. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 1.9%.



Positives: Lower than average percentage of low-income children, teen births, substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect, out-of-home placements and child deaths.

Concerns: None based on these indicators.

Trends to Watch: Decreases in teen birth rate, arrests for serious crime.

	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	2,722	6%	2,683	5%±1	3,118	5.2±1	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			2,193	4%	1,561	3%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	3,397	12%	3,813	11%	3,129	9%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	45		57	12	35	8	1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	104	5%	156	6%	151	5%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			3,576	11%	3,205	9%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			356	17%	295	12%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	747	40	614	25	470	17	15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	219	5	148	3	217	4	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	371	8	436	9	259	4	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	7		9		1		84	1.5

(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

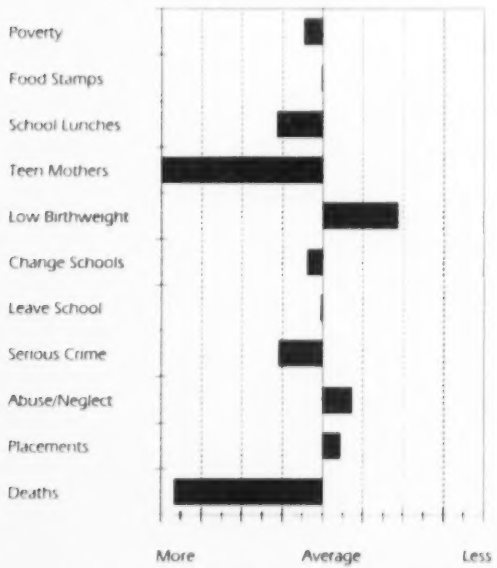
241

Watonwan

Demographics

Estimated population, 1999 11,548
Estimated number of children, 1999 3,141
Estimated % of children, 1999 ..... 27.2%
Estimated number of children, 1991 3,546
% change in number of children, 1991-99 ..... -11.4%
Projected population, 2010 10,990
Projected number of children, 2010 2,790
(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Watonwan County



Compared to the Average County 1999
(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

242

Watonwan County is a moderately small county located in the south central portion of Minnesota, near the Iowa border. The county seat is St. James. During the summer months, the county's population includes migrant farm workers and their children. In 1999-00, over 10% of students in the county had limited English proficiency, compared to almost 8% in 1991-92. Its 1998 per capita personal income was $22,093, forty-third among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in 1998 were non-durable goods manufacturing, services, and farming. The fastest growing industry was construction, which increased just over 10% between 1997 and 1998. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 3.8%.

Positives: Lower than average percentage of low birth weight babies.

Concerns: Higher than average teen birth rate.

Trends to Watch: Increase in percentage of children not graduating on time.

	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	509	15%	479	15% ±3	508	15.9 ±4	148,434	13.1% ±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			438	14%	242	8%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	659	30%	861	38%	795	37%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	5		7	45	9	42	1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	11	6%	10	6%	6	4%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			346	15%	259	12%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			12	8%	19	11%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	26	19	27	19	35	24	15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	29	8	40	12	19	6	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	37	10	67	19	41	13	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	1		0		0		84	1.5

(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

243

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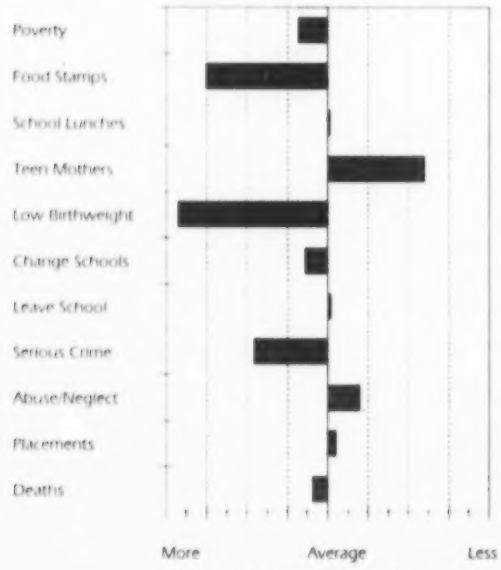
Wilkin

Demographics

Estimated population, 1999 7,287
Estimated number of children, 1999 2,032
Estimated % of children, 1999 ..... 27.9%
Estimated number of children, 1991 2,128
% change in number of children, 1991-99 ..... -4.5%
Projected population, 2010 6,800
Projected number of children, 2010 1,530
(children defined as under 18)

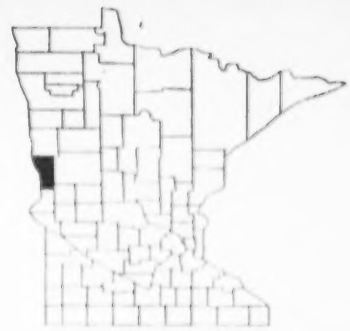
Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Wilkin County



Compared to the Average County 1999
(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

244

Wilkin County is located in west central Minnesota on the North Dakota border. It is the tenth smallest county in the state. The county seat is Breckenridge. During the summer months, the county's population includes migrant farm workers and their children. In 1999-00, almost 2.5% of students in the county had limited English proficiency, compared to just under 2% in 1991-92. Its 1998 per capita personal income of $20,172 ranked sixty-seventh among Minnesota counties. The largest industries were services, state and local government and wholesale trade. The fastest growing industry was construction, which increased almost 23% between 1997 and 1998. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 2.3%.



Positives: Lower than average teen birth rate.

Concerns: Higher than average percentage of children receiving food stamps, low birth weight babies, and arrests for serious crime.

Trends to Watch: Increase in percentage of children not graduating on time.

	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	403	19%	299	15%±4	345	16.6±5	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			552	27%	297	15%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	497	34%	481	31%	413	30%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	4		4		1		1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	5	5%	8	11%	9	9%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			197	13%	180	12%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			6	6%	13	10%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	56	65	53	57	28	30	15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	35	16	18	9	12	6	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	41	19	43	20	29	14	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	1		0		1		84	1.5

(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

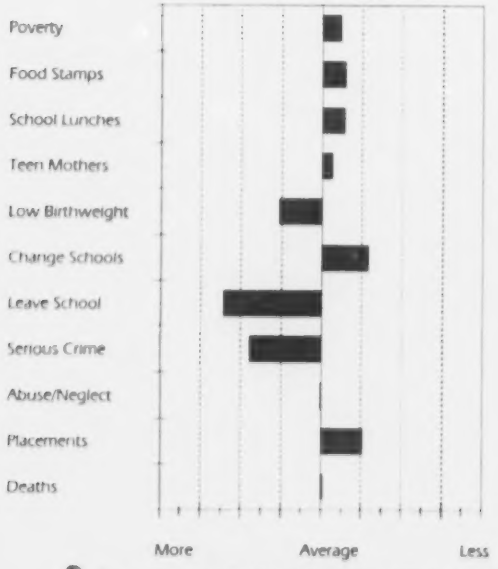
245

Winona

Demographics

Estimated population, 1999 47,785
Estimated number of children, 1999 11,565
Estimated % of children, 1999 ..... 24.2%
Estimated number of children, 1991 11,910
% change in number of children, 1991-99 ..... -2.9%
Projected population, 2010 50,730
Projected number of children, 2010 13,470
(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Winona County



246

Compared to the Average County 1999
(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

Winona County, the eighteenth largest county, is located in southeastern Minnesota, bordering the Mississippi River. The county seat is Winona. Almost 2.5 In 1999-00, almost 2.5% of students in the county had limited English proficiency, compared to 1% in 1991-92. Its per capita personal income was $23,495 in 1998, ranking twenty-fifth in the state. The largest industries in 1998 were durable goods manufacturing, services, and state and local government. The fastest growing industry was wholesale trade, which increased over 12% between 1997 and 1998. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 2.7%.

Positives: Lower than average rate of school transfers.

Concerns: Higher than average percentage of children not graduating on time and arrests for serious crime.

Trends to Watch: Increase in out-of-home placements.

	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	1,427	12%	1,282	11%±2	1616	13.6±3	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			1,061	9%	731	6%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	1,560	23%	1,720	26%	1,804	27%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	21		27	19	13	13	1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	38	6%	29	5%	36	7%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			679	10%	566	8%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			90	18%	98	19%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	142	30	197	37	156	29	15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	69	6	89	7	87	8	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	67	6	81	7	116	10	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	2		2		4		84	1.5

(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

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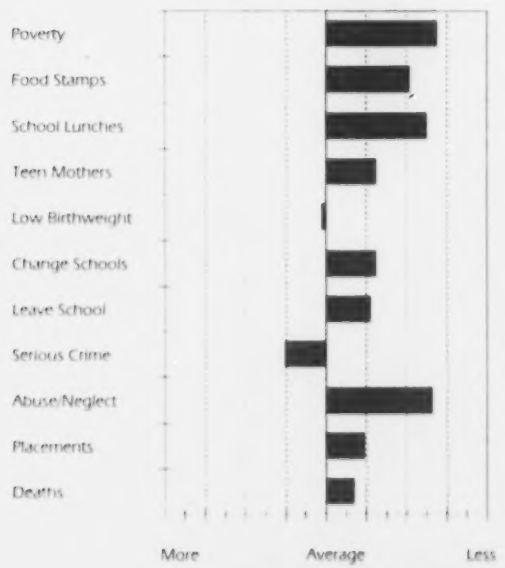
Wright

Demographics

Estimated population, 1999	87,864
Estimated number of children, 1999	28,382
Estimated % of children, 1999	32.3%
Estimated number of children, 1991	23,230
% change in number of children, 1991-99	22.2%
Projected population, 2010	95,160
Projected number of children, 2010	27,240

(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Wright County



Compared to the Average County 1999

(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

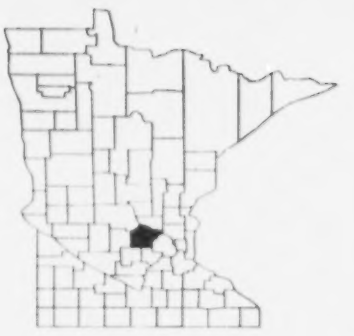
248

Wright County is located in the western portion of the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Area. The county seat is Buffalo. It is the ninth largest county in Minnesota. Wright County had a 1998 per capita personal income of $24,143, which ranked twentieth among Minnesota counties. Its largest industries in 1998 were services, state and local government, and durable goods manufacturing. The fastest growing industry was durable goods manufacturing, increasing by over 18% between 1997 and 1998. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 2.9%.

Positives: Lower than average percentage of low-income children, teen births, school transfers, and substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect.

Concerns: None based on these indicators.

Trends to Watch: Increase in percentage of children born at low birth weight.



	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	1,858	8%	1,940	7%±2	2,189	7.8±2	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			1,506	6%	821	3%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	2,318	15%	2,845	17%	2,984	16%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	24		26	15	24	10	1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	51	4%	41	3%	80	6%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			1,677	10%	1,496	8%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			76	7%	78	7%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	50	5	311	28	307	24	15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	119	5	66	3	64	2	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	244	11	399	17	297	10	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	4		3		3		84	1.5

(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

249

Yellow Medicine

Yellow Medicine County is a moderately small county located on the South Dakota border in the southwestern portion of Minnesota. The county seat is Granite Falls. The Upper Sioux Indian Reservation is located within its borders. Its 1998 per capita personal income of $19,193 ranks seventieth among Minnesota counties. The largest industries in 1998 were services, state and local government, and farming. From 1997 to 1998, the fastest growing industry was durable goods manufacturing, which increased over 16%. The county's 1999 unemployment rate was 4.3%.

Positives: Lower than average percentage of children in poverty, low birth weight babies, school transfers, children not graduating on time and arrest rate for serious crime.

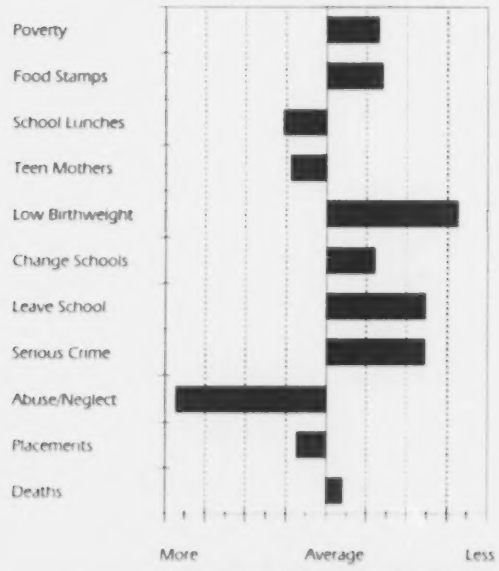
Concerns: Higher than average substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect.

Trends to Watch: Increase in out-of-home placements.

Demographics

Estimated population, 1999 11,310
Estimated number of children, 1999 3,008
Estimated % of children, 1999 ..... 26.6%
Estimated number of children, 1991 3,180
% change in number of children, 1991-99 ..... -5.4%
Projected population, 2010 10,360
Projected number of children, 2010 2,380
(children defined as under 18)

Measuring the Well-Being of Children in Yellow Medicine County



Compared to the Average County 1999
(definitions for the data are on p. 123)

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	1991		1995		1999		1999 State	
Family Economics								
Children in poverty (1989, 1995, 1997)	657	21%	390	12%±3	359	11.5±3	148,434	13.1%±2
Children receiving food stamps (<130% poverty)			251	8%	133	4%	119,644	9.4%
Children receiving free/reduced-price school lunches (91-92, 95-96, 99-00) (<185% poverty)	799	35%	875	38%	774	37%	219,932	26.0%
Starting Out								
Children born to teenage mothers (a)/3-yr rate per 1,000 *	4		5	19	5	17	1,887	16.9
Children born at low birth weight	4	3%	5	4%	3	2%	4,016	6.1%
Children changing schools (95-96, 99-00)			154	7%	184	8%	113,481	13.5%
Challenges to Success								
Children not graduating on time (1997, 1999)			8	5%	3	2%	13,556	21.1%
Children arrested for serious crimes/rate per 1,000 *	13	10	15	10	0	-	15,737	27
Children abused & neglected/rate per 1,000 *	21	7	20	6	45	15	11,113	8.6
Children in out-of-home placements/rate per 1,000 *	30	9	48	15	57	19	12,895	14.8
Children dying from homicide, suicide and injuries	0		0		0		84	1.5

(a) mothers under 18 * Rates not given for less than 10 events

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Children's Defense Fund of MN, 200 University Ave. W., Suite 210, St. Paul, MN 55103; 651/227-6121; www.cdf-mn.org

Data Notes

DEMOGRAPHICS and COUNTY DESCRIPTIONS

Estimated Population, Projected Population:
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, *http://www.census.gov/* (estimated population), Minnesota Office of the State Demographer, *http://mnplan.state.mn.us/* (population projections.)

Per Capita Personal Income:
Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce. *http://www.bea.doc.gov/bea/regional/bearfacts/bf1/27/index.htm*
Definition: The personal income of an area is defined as the income received by, or on behalf of, all the residents of the area. It consists of the income received by persons from all sources. Per capita personal income is calculated as the personal income of the residents of an area divided by the population of the area.

Unemployment Rate
Source: Minnesota Department of Economic Security, *http://www.mnworkforcecenter.org/lmi/laus/laus1.htm*
Definition: "Unemployed persons" includes all civilian, non-institutionalized persons aged 16 or older who, during the week of the 12th, were not employed, available for work, and engaged in job seeking activities during the last 4 weeks; waiting to be called back to a job from which they were laid off; or waiting to report (within 30 days) to a new wage or salaried job. "Unemployed persons" does not count persons who worked at least one hour during the week of the 12th and persons employed but not at work (i.e. on leave).

Major Industries and Growth
Source: Bear Facts, Bureau of Economic Analysis, US Department of Commerce. *http://www.bea.doc.gov/bea/regional/bearfacts/bf1/27/index.htm*
Definition: The largest industries are defined as those having the highest amount of earnings during that calendar year. The fastest growing industries are selected among those industries that accounted for at least 5% of total earnings.

Children With Limited English Proficiency
Source: Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning. *http://cfl.state.mn.us/datactr/datactr2.htm*
A "pupil of limited English proficiency" means a pupil in any of the grades of kindergarten through 12 who meets the following requirements:

1. the pupil, as declared by a parent or guardian, first learned a language other than English, comes from a home where the language usually spoken is other than English, or usually speaks a language other than English; and
2. the pupil's score is significantly below the average district score for pupils of the same age on a nationally normed English reading or English language arts achievement test.

Counties With Migrant Children and Families During the Summer Months
Definition: Counties that have services for migrant families located within their borders, such as migrant health clinics or legal clinics. Other counties may also have migrant farm workers populations.

INDICATORS

Children Living in Poverty
Source: US Bureau of the Census, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates. *http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/saipe.html*
Definition: An estimate of the number of children below the federal poverty line (see guidelines on page 7.) The Census Bureau creates this estimate based on administrative data derived from tax returns, counts of food stamp participants, data from the Bureau of Economic

(continued on page 124)

Data Notes, continued from page 123

Data Notes, continued

Analysis (BEA), decennial census estimates, intercensal population estimates, and the March Current Population Survey (CPS). A complete report on the methodology is available at *http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/saipe/techdoc/strategy.html*.

Children Receiving Food Stamps
Source: Minnesota Department of Human Services, Reports and Forecasts Division. 651-296-6975
Definition: The number of children receiving food stamps during July of each year. The percentage is the number of children receiving food stamps divided by the estimated total number of children in the state or county. Numbers for Mille Lacs County do not include the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. Not all income-eligible children participate in the program.

Children Receiving for Free/Reduced Price School Lunches
Source: Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning, *http://cfl.state.mn.us/datactr/datactr2.htm*
Definition: The number of children approved to receive these meals in October of each school year. Family income must be below 185% of the Federal Poverty Level (see guidelines on page 7.) The percentage is the number of children approved divided by the total enrollment. Schools are assigned to the county where there district offices are located. Not all income-eligible children participate in the program, and private and home-schooled children are not included. PLEASE NOTE: Numbers for all years were revised by the Department in late 1999, and are slightly different from those published in past KIDS COUNT reports.

Children Born to Teenage Mothers
Source: Minnesota Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics
http://www.mnplan.state.mn.us/datanetweb/health.html
Definition: The number of children born to women who were less than age 18 at the time of birth. The rate of births is a three-year average of the number of births to 15-17 year olds divided by the estimated population of females 15-17 years. This provides larger numbers and more accurate rates at the county level. Information is collected from birth certificates, and births are assigned to the county in which the mother resides, even if the birth occurs in a different county.

Children Born at Low Birth Weight
Source: Minnesota Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics. *http://www.mnplan.state.mn.us/datanetweb/health.html*
Definition: The number of infants weighing less than 2500 grams (5.5. pounds) at birth. The percentage is the number of these births divided by the total number of births. Information is collected from birth certificates, and births are assigned to the county in which the mother resides, even if the birth occurs in a different county.

Children with School Readiness Problems
Source: Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning, *http://cfl.state.mn.us/ecfi/ecscrnfact.htm*
Definition: The number of children screened as part of the Early Childhood Screening program, the average age of the screening, the number of referrals made, and the total number of screenings (children may be screened in up to 11 areas each). The percentage of screenings resulting in referrals is the number of referrals divided by the total number of screenings. Some children may receive more than one referral.

Children Changing Schools
Source: Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning. *http://cfl.state.mn.us/datactr/datactr2.htm*
Definition: A count of student transfers into and out of schools in other districts and between schools within a district. Students who transfer more than once in a school year are counted each time they transfer. The percentage of transfers (or Mobility Index) is calculated by adding together the mid-year enrollments, transfers and withdrawals and then dividing by the district's October 1 enrollment. Schools are assigned to the county where their district offices are located.

Data Notes, continued

Data Notes, continued from page 124

Children Not Graduating On Time
Source: Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning. *http://cfl.state.mn.us/datactr/compstu/compstu1.htm*
Definition: The number of students in grade 12 who have either dropped out during 9-12th grades or are continuing their education and thus are not graduating with their class. The percentage is the number of students not graduating on time divided by the total enrollment of their class. Only students who attended school in the same district all four years are measured in this indicator. Schools are assigned to the county where there district offices are located, and private and home-schooled children are not included.

Children Arrested for Serious Crime
Source: Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, *http://www.dps.state.mn.us/bca/CJIS/Documents/*
Definition: The number of children under 18 arrested for Part I crimes: murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, vehicle theft and arson. The rate per 1,000 is the total number of children arrested for Part I crimes divided by the estimated number of children ages 10-17 multiplied by 1,000. Not all children arrested for serious crimes committed these crimes, and some children are not arrested for crimes that they actually committed. These rates are useful for comparison purposes and trends, but may be low because of the inclusion of children in the younger age ranges and the inclusion of girls, both of whom have few arrests.

Children Abused and Neglected
Source: Minnesota Department of Human Services. *http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/childint/Research/maltreat.htm*
Definition: The number of children for whom a report of child abuse or neglect was substantiated by a county child protection worker. The rate is the number of these children divided by the estimated total number of children and multiplied by 1,000. Substantiated abuse means that the county has conducted an assessment in response to a report and found that maltreatment occurred.

Children in out-Of-Home Placements
Source: Minnesota Department of Human Services,*http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/childint/Research/outofhome.htm*
Definition: The number of children who spent time in foster care, group homes, emergency shelter or residential treatment facilities during the year, including those formally placed with relatives. The rate is the number of these children divided by the estimated total number of children and multiplied by 1,000. This figure does not include children in correctional facilities. The numbers used in this data book is the data reported by counties as of December 10, 2000. Reported numbers may have been updated by some counties since that time.

Children Dying from Homicide, Suicide and Injury
Source: Minnesota Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics. *http://www.mnplan.state.mn.us/datanetweb/health.html*
Definition: The number of children dying from homicide, suicide and unintentional injuries, including motor vehicle crashes (as drivers, passengers or bystanders), falls, and drowning. The region rates are given as three year averages; the county rate is the number of children dying for all years 1991-99, divided by the estimated total number of children, multiplied by 10,000. This provides larger numbers and more accurate rates at the county and region levels. The information is obtained from death certificates, which may not always be completed accurately, especially in cases of child abuse deaths or suicides. County bar graphs use the rate for all available years of data (91-99).

About the Bar Graphs for Counties
The graphs allow comparison of multiple indicators within a county. At a glance, you are also able to see how a county compares to the state average for each indicator. The "County Average" is the mean of all counties' data points. Each thin line represents one standard deviation above or below the average.

Standard scores for each indicator (also known as *z*-scores) are computed by taking the difference between each data point and the mean, and dividing it by the standard deviation (a measure of the degree to which all of the counties' data points cluster around the mean.)

Minnesota Kids: A Closer Look

Children's Defense Fund

Children's Defense Fund - Minnesota,
200 University Ave. W. Suite 210, St. Paul, MN 55103; 651/227-6121; www.cdf-mn.org

distributed by Congregations Concerned for Children-Child Advocacy Network,
Joint Religious Legislative Coalition,
122 West Franklin Ave., Suite 315, Minneapolis, MN 55404; 612/870-3670